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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony for Senate Bill 343
State's Attorneys- Reconstitution of Task Force to Study
Transparency Standards for State's Attorneys
Before the Judiciary Committee
March 25, 2025

Good afternoon, Chair Clippinger and members of the Judiciary Committee,

Senate Bill 343 ("SB 343") picks up and expands on Chapter 141 of 2022 by reconstituting the Task Force to Study Transparency Standards for State's Attorneys ("Task Force"). The Task Force recommended that: (1) all State's Attorneys' offices should adopt and use an automated case management system ("CMS"); (2) a statewide uniform data collection procedure should be adopted within the CMS; (3) the State should continue to provide State's Attorneys' offices with the funding needed to assist with CMS setup and data sharing; (4) there should be some form of data publication; and (5) the Task Force should be extended for three years, and its membership should be expanded.

As amended, SB 343 reinstates the Task Force, which was established to study Transparency Standards for the State's Attorneys Case Management Systems. As noted in Section 3 of the legislation, our goal is to secure as many former members as possible of the original task force to serve. Unfortunately, when the 2024 session ended, the former Task Force expired, without SB 617 having been passed which would have allowed the Task Force to continue its work, therefore the need for SB 343. Because of our fiscal situation, SB 343 will not codify the State's Attorney's Office Case Automation System Enhancement Grant Program, which was run by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy and funded in last year's budget.

Additionally, the Task Force will also be tasked with identifying sustainable funding sources to implement its recommendations, including recommendations made by the Task Force's predecessor Task Force mentioned above. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and shall end June 30, 2028.

As such, I respectfully request a favorable report for SB 343.