

SB 346/HB 332: Civil Actions - Violation of Constitutional Rights (**No Kings Act**):
Please vote **TO OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judicial Proceedings & Judiciary Committees:

I am writing to express my **strong opposition to SB 346 / HB 332, the so-called “No Kings Act.”**

While accountability for government action is important, this bill **fundamentally disrupts the constitutional balance of powers** by dramatically expanding civil liability against the State and its officials in a way that is **overbroad, destabilizing, and legally unsound**.

At its core, SB 346/HB 332 **erodes longstanding principles of sovereign immunity** and invites the judiciary to second-guess executive and legislative decision-making through private civil litigation. These policy judgments are properly resolved through **democratic processes and existing oversight mechanisms**, not retroactive lawsuits driven by political disagreement rather than clear constitutional violations.

The bill also raises serious **due-process concerns**. By lowering barriers to civil actions and exposing public officials to personal liability for actions taken in good-faith performance of their duties, the legislation **diminishes lawful governance**, discourages decisive action, and incentivizes excessive risk aversion within state agencies. Public servants should not be forced to govern under constant threat of litigation for unsettled or evolving constitutional claims.

Moreover, this proposal would **flood Maryland courts with speculative lawsuits**, divert taxpayer resources away from essential public services and toward legal defense costs and settlements. The result will not be better governance, but **paralysis, forum-shopping, and policymaking by litigation rather than legislation**.

Maryland already provides remedies for genuine constitutional violations through existing state and federal law. **SB 346/HB 332** does not fill a legal gap—it **creates a new cause of action that upsets separation of powers, weakens effective governance, and ultimately harms the public interest**.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose SB 346 / HB 332**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals