

Testimony on House Bill 634 - Support

**Presbyterians for Police Transformation
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church**

Regarding HB 634 – Police Training – Autism and Dementia (LEAD Act)

**Submitted to the
Maryland House Judiciary Committee**

February 24, 2026

In support of vulnerable individuals in our congregation and community, Presbyterians for Police Transformation endorses HB 634 (LEAD act of 2026) to familiarize officers with autism and dementia and train them to locate, communicate with, and reunify wandering or missing individuals with loved ones and caregivers.

This is essential to avoid tragic outcomes of death or serious injury when agitation is misinterpreted as aggression. Understanding communication differences is urgently needed to protect people with autism and dementia as well as the officers interacting with them. De-escalation training is of primary importance. So are efficient case documentation and interagency coordination.

We strongly endorse **HB 634** (LEAD act of 2026) to keep all our citizens safe and urge you to unanimously pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

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