



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

Continuing the Missions of the Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation, Inc.

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**LETTER IN OPPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 336—  
DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONERS & FALSE STATEMENTS**

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The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center (MCVRC) respectfully urges an unfavorable report on HB 336. As drafted, this bill places crime victims in dangerous and untenable positions and undermines public safety.

**Baltimore**

1 North Charles Street  
Suite 700  
Baltimore, MD 21201

MCVRC understands that House Bill 336 aims to curb the impact of abusive use of the charging process, but this bill goes too far and exposes Marylanders to significant risk.

**Carroll, Howard, &  
Baltimore Counties**

Oakland Manor  
5430 Vantage Point Road  
Columbia, MD 21044  
240-335-4032

The proposed carve-out for domestic violence cases recognizes the dangerous of this bill as drafted. MCVRC wants the legislature to acknowledge that it is not just the victims of domestic violence that can be terrorized by a person who has been served with a summons notifying them of charges. Victims of many crimes, not just domestic violence, may be targeted, intimidated, or harmed once an offender is notified of pending charges. It is not just perpetrators of domestic violence that pose a danger to victims pending trial. Many offenders deliberately target their victims and will do so again if given the opportunity.

**Eastern Shore**

240-335-4012

As an organization that works in every jurisdiction in the State, we speak every day to victims throughout the State that cannot get any responsive action by the police or State's Attorney's Office. Keeping the path to the commissioner open and allowing the commissioner to evaluate the need for a warrant is critical for the safety of those victims in danger and all Marylanders.

**Frederick &  
Montgomery Counties**

240-335-4021

There are better solutions to the problem of abusive filings. MCVRC recognizes that people are flawed and will find ways to abuse our legal system. Marylanders bring false charges to the police just as they do to the Commissioner. The solution is not found in eliminating the ability of the Commissioner to issue a warrant. Eliminating a critical safety mechanism does not stop abuse, it only increases risk.

**Southern Maryland**

301-952-0063

**Western Maryland**

59 Prospect Square  
Suite 6  
Cumberland, MD 21502  
240-335-4013

Other states have laws that require the Commissioners to submit warrant requests to the State's Attorney's Office, such review required to be done within a short timeframe, often 24 hours. *See Endnote*. This system would allow additional protection for the rights of both the victims and the suspects. Eliminating an option to keep Marylanders safe is not the solution- strengthening oversight while preserving swift intervention is good for all persons. This Bill with the amendments being discussed would limit the enhanced protection of a warrant only to victims of domestic violence thus ignoring the

very real risks faced by victims of other serious crimes. Such a scenario would not treat victims with the dignity, respect, and sensitivity that Article 47 of the Maryland Constitution requires.

MCVRC provides legal services for crime victims throughout Maryland and is the largest nonprofit of its kind in the country. We write on behalf of Maryland's Crime Victims and those who advocate for them. We ask you to give HB 336 an unfavorable report as currently written.

Sincerely,

Laura Corbett Wilt, Senior Supervising Attorney  
240-335-4004; [lwilt@mdcrimevictims.org](mailto:lwilt@mdcrimevictims.org)

Joined by: Joanna Mupanduki, Deputy Director & Kurt Wolfgang, Executive Director <sup>i</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> In just a quick survey of about 10 states, MCVRC finds that: Pennsylvania and Ohio allow a private citizen's complaint to result in a warrant but require a review by the prosecuting attorney or a 'reviewing official'. PA ST RCRP Rule 506; OH ST § 2935.09(D). Idaho and Arizona allow Commissioners to issue warrants based on Citizen complaints. ID Code § 19-506 (2025) & Arizona [A.R.S. § 13-3897\(A\)](#). Washington State requires review by a Judge for issuance of a warrant. WA ST CR LTD JURIS CrRLJ 2.1-2.2. Northern California requires all requests for arrest warrants be presented to the District Attorney for AG for review and approval. CA R MODOC SUPER CT Rule 6.03.