

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1036****“MARYLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY – CYBERSECURITY COORDINATION AND OPERATIONS OFFICE – ESTABLISHMENT”****EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS (EHE) COMMITTEE****MARCH 12, 2020****BEN YELIN****Program Director, Public Policy and External Affairs  
University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security**

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairwoman Kagan, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Ben Yelin, and I am the Program Director for Public Policy and External Affairs at the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security. I also teach in the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. I am here to testify on behalf of the Center.

The Center provides comprehensive consulting services in the fields of emergency management and homeland security to governmental and institutional organizations, covering cybersecurity, emergency management, health security, and a variety of other services. The Center has developed, for example, cyber preparedness and response frameworks for Montgomery County and Prince George’s County. The Center also oversees new graduate specialties in cybersecurity and crisis management at the law school, where I have taught many courses in these areas, including Law and Policy of Cybersecurity and Law and Policy of Cyber Crimes.

We are all familiar with the damage wrought by cyber attacks, such as last year’s ransomware attack on Baltimore City that cost over \$18 million in system restoration and delayed or lost revenue. To better prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from cyber attacks in the future, Maryland needs a coordinated infrastructure to integrate information, best practices, and resources across the state.

If passed, Senate Bill 1036 will do just that: establish a Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office within the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). The Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office will improve local, regional, and statewide cybersecurity readiness and response. Because MEMA interfaces daily with state and local entities, it is perfectly situated to accomplish the mission set forth in SB1036:

- Assist in the development of local cybersecurity disruption plans;
- Coordinate with state and local entities on the implementation of cybersecurity best practices;
- Coordinate with local jurisdictions and agencies on the implementation of the Department of Information Technology’s Statewide Master Plan; and

- Work with the State Chief Information Security Officer and the Secretary of Information Technology to ensure that local jurisdictions and agencies have the resources they need for cybersecurity readiness and response.

This mission is essential to protecting the information technology infrastructure and functions of Maryland and its political subdivisions. I thank you for your attention to this threat and your commitment to protect all Marylanders from the risks posed by cyber attacks.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Ben Yelin