



# Maryland State Board of Victim Services

100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

Steven J. Kelly, Esq.  
Chair

February 6, 2020

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr., and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SENATE BILL 268 – Victim’s Rights – Restitution**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland State Board of Victim Services supports Senate Bill 268, which requires a court to order victim restitution in criminal cases, where previously a court had discretion to enter an order of restitution. Under current law, victims are entitled to request restitution from an offender if a victim has suffered any financial loss as a direct result of the crime. Senate Bill 268 clarifies that victims may request restitution for any financial result of the crime or delinquent act, not just a direct result of the crime, and still affording the offender the right to argue the ability to pay.

Senate Bill 268 also requires the victim or the State to present the court with evidence to support the request for restitution, in addition to requiring the State’s Attorney to advise the victim of the steps a court must take to award restitution, the evidence required, and the process for collecting restitution that is awarded. This language allows victims to be better informed of their rights during the criminal justice process.

For these reasons, the Maryland State Board of Victim Services urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 268.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SJK", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven J. Kelly, Esq.  
Chair