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Judiciary Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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The Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger
Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee
6 Bladen Street, Room 101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Good Afternoon, Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary and members of this wonderful committee. I am Delegate Williams and I am testifying in favor of House Bill 764, also known as the Law Enforcement Officers - Prohibition of Sexual Activity.

October 11, 2018, Ryan Macklin, a 6-year veteran of the Prince George's County Police Department pulled over a driver while he was on duty, in a marked police car and wearing his uniform. Officer Macklin forced the driver to perform a sexual act as they were both seated in her car.

I know Mr. Macklin was simply one bad apple in the bunch of the fine and honorable officers that we have in Prince George's County and across our state. Unfortunately, this story is not an isolated story as the other members of the panel will speak of. I know the police and the chiefs of our departments do not encourage or tolerate this kind of behavior. But they understand that this behavior erodes the public's confidence in our law enforcement institutions.

We want all of our residents, including our most vulnerable residents in our community to trust that the police will protect them. When I talk about this bill to my friends and neighbors they are surprised that this not already a crime. Before introducing this bill, I reached out the State FOP and the MD Chiefs and Sheriff's Association for their input because I know that they do not support officers engaging in such acts and they want to make sure that their officers are operating with the highest integrity.

If this bill becomes law, hopefully we can restore the public's faith in our law enforcement agencies.

I urge the committee to pass House Bill 764

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am happy to take questions.

Sincerely,

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.