



February 9, 2021

Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB363 – Courts - Improperly Summoning a Police Officer-
Civil Liability**

Dear Chair William C. Smith, Jr. and Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Members:

On behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 363 Improperly Summoning a Police Officer. CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization.

Over the course of especially last year, there have been many issues on the forefront of our society; among them is increasingly excessive police interference with daily life. Police are called too often especially on people of color for non-emergency situations which can escalate rapidly.

Maryland's Muslim communities are comprised of very diverse ethnic and racial groups, and many individuals have also had their race or religion weaponized by others who seek to do them harm. Oftentimes, as we have seen in numerous national high profile incidents recently, racial and religious bias are the impetus for these calls.

These unnecessary 911 calls not only waste government resources and divert police officers' attention from legitimately urgent disputes and crimes that warrant their intervention, but they also increase the risk of a hostile situation which can endanger innocent lives.

We support this bill because it sets the tone for accountability, and we believe it will help discourage this behavior in the future. Therefore, we respectfully urge your vote in favor of it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Huzzaifa Muhammad
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Council on American-Islamic Relations
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