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**To:** Members of The House Judiciary Committee and Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**From:** Doyle Niemann, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice Section

**Date:** February 9, 2021

**Subject:** **HB438 – SB443 – Malicious Destruction of Historically Significant Monument (Monument Protection Act of 2021)**

**Position:** **Oppose**

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The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law & Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **Opposes HB438 – SB443 – Malicious Destruction of Historically Significant Monument (Monument Protection Act of 2021).**

This bill creates a new crime for the malicious destruction of a monument or memorial.

Destruction of property is already a crime. There is not need to create a new crime to address it in the context of monuments and memorials. At a time of significant social upheaval, passage of the bill will only increase divisions and undermine public support for the criminal justice system.

For the reasons stated, we **Oppose HB438 – SB443 – Malicious Destruction of Historically Significant Monument (Monument Protection Act of 2021).**

If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section's Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at 240-606-1298 or at [doyleniemann@verizon.net](mailto:doyleniemann@verizon.net).

Should you have other questions, please contact The MSBA's Legislative Office at (410)-269-6464 / (410)-685-7878 ext: 3066 or at [Richard@MSBA.org](mailto:Richard@MSBA.org).