



POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Bill: SB 0419 No Knock Warrants – Elimination

Position: Favorable

Date: January 28, 2021

The Office of the Public Defender supports SB 0419, which would eliminate the use of no knock warrants in Maryland.

In 2020 No Knock warrants became a national issue with protests across the nation after Breonna Taylor was killed by police officers while they were executing a no-knock warrant. Unfortunately, the problems with no knock warrants are not exclusive to the city of Louisville. In March 2020, a Montgomery County man, Duncan Lemp, was killed by police officers while they were executing a no-knock raid.¹

Since this national moment, jurisdictions like the City of Louisville & the Commonwealth Virginia have banned the use of no-knock warrants.² Here, Maryland has the chance to do the same. In a Country where individuals have the 2nd amendment right to own firearms to protect themselves and their family, no knock warrants are a lethal safety hazard. Therefore, we support this proposed legislation.

¹ <https://reason.com/2020/03/16/maryland-man-killed-in-no-knock-swat-raid-was-shot-while-asleep-family-says/>

² <https://www.npr.org/local/305/2020/12/08/944231385/virginia-gov-northam-signs-breonna-s-law-banning-no-knock-warrants> ; <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/12/us/breonna-taylor-law-passed.html>