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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 686

Our third branch of government, the Judiciary, is under attack. Recently, the critically acclaimed TV show, **60 MINUTES**, aired the tragic story of U.S. District Court Judge Esther Salas and the brutal attack planned and carried out by Den Hollander, a men's rights lawyer with a history of anti-feminist statements. On that fateful day, Judge Salas lost her only son. Disguised as FEDEX delivery personnel, Hollander was greeted at the family's door by Salas' 20-year-old son while her husband was close by. The gunman viscously and premeditatedly fatally shot the young man and then severely wounded her husband. The next day, authorities found Hollander dead by a self-inflicted gunshot. Upon further investigation, documents were discovered in Hollander's locker that detailed plans to kill Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

Last year, nationwide, there were over four thousand threats against the Judiciary.

HB 686, as originally written, has been carefully scrutinized by Judge Alan M. Wilner, the Chairman of the Judiciary Rules Committee and retired Judge from the Maryland Court of Appeals. I want to personally thank him for his legal acumen, dedication and hard work in making the amended bill so much better, practical and workable.

HB 686 has been amended to be inserted in the Public Safety Article, Section 3-521. Its purpose is simple: to protect judicial officers and prosecutors as well as their immediate families from the risk of harm to life and property, and from harassment. The bill, as amended, prohibits state and local government agencies and certain persons from publishing or posting on the internet the home address and telephone numbers of this proposed protected group. It also requires these, agencies entities or individuals who post such information on the internet to remove the information upon request of the judicial officer, prosecutor, or immediate family member, while providing relief for the failure to do so.

The definition of "**immediate family member**" is provided in the bill: spouse, parent, or child of a judicial officer or prosecutor. "**Judicial Officer**" is defined as an incumbent or retired judge of a Maryland court created under Article 4 of the Maryland Constitution, a judge of the U.S. District Court including Bankruptcy Court living in Maryland, and includes U.S. Magistrates, Circuit Court Magistrates, and Commissioners of the District Court. "**Prosecutor**" is defined as a person

authorized to prosecute an offense in a Maryland court or the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

HB 686 permits those individuals as defined above to request, in writing, that the appropriate government agencies and internet entities are not to publish or post their home address and home phone numbers. The government agencies and internet entities shall then promptly acknowledge receipt of the request, in writing, and then take all reasonable steps to make sure the information is redacted or removed from the internet and public eye.

If a private person posts such information, the protected individual(s) may deliver to that individual a certified and first-class letter by mail, which identifies the personal information that is posted as protected information and demand that the offending information be removed.

If the agency, entity official, or individual fails to comply with the request for removal, the protected individual may seek declaratory and injunctive relief and attorneys' fees in any Circuit Court of appropriate venue.

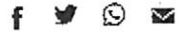
If any other individual fails to comply with the requested removal of protected information, the protected individual may seek, in addition to the relief set forth above, punitive damages if the Court finds their failure to do so was willful.

HB 686 is to be effective June 1, 2021.

**PLEASE SUPPORT HB 686. PROTECT OUR JUDICIARY AND PROSECUTORS
WHO PROTECT AND DEFEND THE RULE OF LAW.**

Judge says lawyer who killed her son also tracked Sotomayor

2 days ago



WASHINGTON (AP) — The lawyer who killed a federal judge's son and seriously wounded her husband at their New Jersey home last summer also had been tracking Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the judge said in a television interview.



U.S. District Judge Esther Salas said FBI agents discovered the information in a locker belonging to the lawyer, Roy Den Hollander. "They found another gun, a Glock, more ammunition. But the most troubling thing they found was a manila folder with a workup on Justice Sonia Sotomayor," Salas said in an interview with CBS News' "60 Minutes." The segment is scheduled for broadcast Sunday, but a portion of the interview aired Friday on "CBS This Morning."

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Both the Supreme Court and the FBI declined to comment Friday. "We do not discuss security as a matter of Court policy," court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said in an email.

Authorities have said Den Hollander, a men's rights lawyer with a history of anti-feminist writings, posed as a FedEx delivery person and fatally shot 20-year-old Daniel Anderl and wounded his father, Mark Anderl, in July. Salas was in another part of the home at the time and was not injured.

Den Hollander, 72, was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound the day after the ambush. Authorities believe he also shot and killed a fellow attorney in California in the days before the attack at Salas' home.

The AP has previously reported that when Den Hollander was found dead he had a document with him with information about a dozen female judges from across the country, half of whom are Latina, including Salas.

Salas has been calling for more privacy and protections for judges, including scrubbing personal information from the internet, to deal with mounting cyberthreats. The U.S. Marshals Service, which protects about 2,700 federal judges, said there were 4,449 threats and inappropriate communications in 2019, up from 926 such incidents in 2015.

Legislation named for Salas' son that would make it easier to shield judges' personal information from the public failed to pass the Senate in December, but could be reintroduced this year.