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The Maryland House of Delegates

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Testimony in Support of House Bill 744 – Courts – Counsel Appearance Fees – Domestic Violence

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of **House Bill 744 – Courts – Counsel Appearance Fees – Domestic Violence**.

This bill stipulates that a fee may not be collected for docketing the appearance of a petitioner's counsel in a domestic violence case. House Bill 744 merely clarifies how counsel appearance fees are already handled in these cases. There have been a few reports of these fees being charged in one or two jurisdictions. This measure would assure that the fees are not collected going forward.

I respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 744.