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BILL NO.: HB 1344

TITLE: Workgroup to Study Extreme Risk Protective Orders (Sagar Ghimire Act)

SPONSOR: Delegate Bhandari

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 10, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1344 - Workgroup to Study Extreme Risk Protective Orders (Sagar Ghimire Act). This legislation would establish the Workgroup to Study Extreme Risk Protective Orders to evaluate the effectiveness and possible improvements to Maryland's Extreme Risk Protective Order program.

Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPOs) serve as a final attempt to prevent potential tragedy. Since the program's establishment, many qualified petitioners have used ERPOs in situations where individuals present a clear danger to themselves or the people around them. These petitions are a tool to be used in the most serious cases, giving individuals the treatment they need while preventing potential imminent threats.

This legislation is named after Sagar Ghimire, a young student who was tragically murdered on May 8, 2021 during a mass shooting in Woodlawn. Baltimore County grieves with Mr. Ghimire's family, and applauds the sponsor for bringing forward legislation that seeks to strengthen available resources for preventing such an incident from occurring again. In the interests of keeping communities safe, evaluating how these resources can effectively achieve their intended goals is a necessary obligation of leaders across the State of Maryland.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 1344. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.