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## THE SENATE OF MARYLAND ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

## Testimony of Senator Hayes in Support of Senate Bill 758: Criminal Procedure – Live Video Streaming of Public Proceedings (The Judicial Transparency Act 2.0)

## March 2, 2022

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

SB 758 is a bill drafted in order to improve the public's confidence and transparency in our judicial system. The goal of this bill is to make live streaming of Court proceedings available to the public. Similar to how the Maryland General Assembly streams bill hearings. With reasonable exceptions in place to protect the privacy of jurors, minors, and victims involved in cases. As things currently are, the Courts already have the technology in place to hold remote hearings & offer audio streaming, video streaming is the next step in establishing more communal trust. The scope of this bill covers all violent crimes and would enable proceedings to be easily available for the public to watch.

Thus, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 758.

Respectfully,

Senator Antonio L. Hayes 40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District - MD

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