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To: Members of The House Judiciary Committee

From: Family & Juvenile Law Section Council (FJLSC)
by Lindsay Parvis, Esquire

Date: February 3, 2022

Subject: **House Bill 296:**
Interim and Temporary Protective orders –
Electronic Filing and Video Conferencing Hearings

Position: **SUPPORT/FAVORABLE**

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) FJLSC **supports (as to be amended) House Bill 296 – Interim and Temporary Protective orders – Electronic Filing and Video Conferencing Hearings.**

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Family and Juvenile Law Section Council (“FJLSC”) of the Maryland State Bar Association (“MSBA”). The FJLSC is the formal representative of the Family and Juvenile Law Section of the MSBA, which promotes the objectives of the MSBA by improving the administration of justice in the field of family and juvenile law and, at the same time, tries to bring together the members of the MSBA who are concerned with family and juvenile laws and in reforms and improvements in such laws through legislation or otherwise. The FJLSC is charged with the general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section and authorized to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself could act. The Section has over 1,200 attorney members.

HB296 would enable survivors who seek protective orders to be able to do so electronically and virtually from the hospital. It is the FJLSC’s understanding that sponsor amendments will include removal of “urgent care” centers from HB296 and changing “allow” to “assist”. FJLSC supports these amendments.

HB296 will enable survivors to seek a protective order from the safety of a hospital. At a time when their safety is at extreme risk. HB296 removes the obstacle of having to go to court or the commissioner to seek a protective order (interim or temporary).



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HB296 provides access to justice for an extremely vulnerable population. For these reasons, the FJLSC urges a favorable report with sponsor amendments.

Should you have any questions, please contact Michelle Smith by e-mail at msmith@lawannapolis.com or by telephone at 410-280-1700.

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