

February 18, 2022

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1011**

**Conditions of Pretrial Release - Home Detention Monitoring - Alterations and Extension**

**To:** Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon, and members of the Judiciary Committee

**From:** Dr. Daniel Richman

My name is Dan Richman and I'm a resident of Baltimore, Maryland, legislative District 46. I'm submitting this testimony in support of HB 1011, the bill requiring the Maryland Judiciary to extend the program in which they cover the cost of home detention monitoring for indigent defendants.

A few years ago I participated in a court observation program of the Office of the Public Defender and helped document the court's use of cash bond conditions for pretrial release. I saw how expensive, exploitative, unfair, and destructive that system was. Now, many defendants are being assigned home monitoring that is similarly unbelievably expensive and harmful.

I think it's stupid that we assign people home monitoring at all - they should be released on their own recognizance before trial. I think it's absolutely disgusting on the part of the state that if we're using home monitoring at all, that we require the defendants to pay exorbitant fees (while also trying to pay for housing, food, etc) to private companies.

At the very least, the state needs to continue covering these costs for indigent defendants.

I respectfully urge a favorable report for HB 1011.