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Judiciary Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 2nd, 2022

The Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger  
Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee  
6 Bladen Street, Room 101  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**House Bill 519**

Good afternoon, Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon, and members of the House Judiciary Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams of District 22, and I will be testifying today in favor of **House Bill 519**, also known as **Circuit Court Clerks - Salary Increase**. This legislation would provide for an increase in the maximum annual salary that the Board of Public Works may set for circuit court clerks.

Circuit court clerks provide essential services in the judiciary of the State of Maryland. On a yearly basis, clerks keep record of filings and issuing court documents for approximately 200,000 new cases, as well as recording 700,000 land records, issuing 50,000 business licenses, and issuing 30,000 marriage licenses.

Despite the wide range of responsibilities that circuit court clerks hold, the maximum salary they are eligible to receive has fallen behind that of similar positions in Maryland. Since 2018, the maximum salary offered to other judiciary employees has increased 15.5 percent. In some cases, circuit court clerks are earning less than those working for them. The maximum salary, which stands at \$124,500, is less even when compared to similar positions in neighboring states. For example, a circuit court clerk in Virginia can earn up to \$150,273, and those in the District of Columbia can earn up to \$183,300. There is a clear and stark difference between what circuit clerks earn in the State of Maryland and what they deserve. Therefore the proposed

increase to \$146,500 in this bill is still less than those in our neighboring jurisdictions and beyond reasonable given the important role that our clerks have in our community.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 519.

Sincerely,

*Nicole A. Williams, Esq.*

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.