



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY by Senator C. Anthony Muse

SB 606: Criminal Law – Maryland RICO Act

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman, and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. Senate Bill 606 **as amended** would change the organized crime statute by adding civil forfeiture language, civil remedies, and it increases the penalty and changes the definition of “street crews.”

Senate Bill 606 *as amended* is intended to address the pattern of organized crime activity in our neighborhoods.

Nowadays, groups of individuals may not necessarily be a “gang” or “street crew,” but they are group of individuals who have a pattern of “organized” crime. SB 606 would allow civil remedies under the criminal law article for crimes related to: fraud, bribery, impersonating a police officer, obstruction of justice, perjury, threat of mass violence, insurance fraud, and any act or threat involving murder, kidnapping, gambling, arson, robbery, extortion, dealing in controlled dangerous substances, etc. In addition, if found guilty the penalty for a felony conviction would be no less than 5 years and up to 20 years or a fine not exceeding \$25,000.

In closing, I am a strong advocate for expungement and giving people a second chance when they make a mistake; however, I do not support or endorse organized crime. Therefore, the goal of this legislation is to **prevent** and **deter** persons from participating in organized crime... from the local owners of “chop” shops to persons who transport and exploit victims of human trafficking they too are committing a serious crime.

Therefore, I urge this committee for a FAVORABLE report for SB 606 as amended.