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Legislative District 22
Prince George's County

Chair
Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee

Environment and Transportation
Committee

Chair
Local Government and
Bi-County Agencies Subcommittee



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**Testimony in Support of HB 1031 – Public Safety – Missing Person
Reports – Collection and Publication
March 9, 2023**

Chair Clippinger and Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Delegate Anne Healey, seeking a favorable report on HB 1031.

This bill requires the Maryland State Police to compile and report information on missing persons; requires local law enforcement agencies to report this information to the Maryland State Police and requires procedures for the collection of information.

Currently local law enforcement agencies take missing person reports on a uniform form to be uploaded within 2 hours

to the National Crime Information Center. The Center reviews the case for the first 72 hours and not again for another 30 days. The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division maintains the data which only has limited accessibility to certified users of the systems. The State Police are required to place a direct link on their site which connects to the Maryland Center for Missing and Unidentified Facebook page. The page is an information sharing platform. There is a link to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Other than information posted to a Facebook page, there is no data that would speak to the demographics of a missing person. There could be 20 women and girls missing from a particular place in Maryland, and 15 boys between the ages of 13 – 16 missing from another place, and we would miss an opportunity to investigate a possible Human Trafficking ring.

We need the data collected in a format that would expose a problem. As it stands, we don't have any idea of the scope of the

problem of missing persons until the data is collected in a way that is accessible to law enforcement, the media, and the public. There is no opportunity to get a handle on the problem if there is a problem. For the purposes of this bill, we are not dealing with the individual identities of missing persons. We want to know the demographics, such as how long the person was missing, how many cases are open, where it's happening and to whom. We can only make good policy decisions based on good data.

Please vote favorably on HB 1031.