



TESTIMONY FOR SB0340
Criminal Law - False Statements - Emergency or Commission of Crime
(Antiswatting Act of 2023)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Kagan

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0340 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

What a world we live in, where someone can get angry at you and call the police to your house for an emergency that does not exist. In the past, these would be nuisance crimes, but in today's volatile society, people have been killed when police storm into a home where innocent people are sleeping and someone pulls out a gun to defend themselves.

Sadly, we need laws to protect against this kind of careless disregard for the lives of other people and the involvement of police in a call that would potentially take them away from a REAL emergency, or could potentially put them in danger.

SB0340 would make it a misdemeanor for a first-time offense and a felony after that. People should know that they would be prosecuted for this in the hope that it will dissuade them from pursuing such a course of action.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.