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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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FAVORABLE – HB878 – Constitutional Officers – Public Disclosure of Personal Information

February 27, 2024

To: Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

HB878, if enacted, will allow constitutional officers the ability to request the removal of their personal information, or the personal information of their family members from public disclosure. The bill mandates that a person who disclosed such information has 72 hours to remove it after being notified by the constitutional officer and/or their immediate family member that they want it removed. If the party does not remove the information, they may be liable for damages to a constitutional officer or a member of their immediate family.

As we have seen in today's political climate, both at the national level, and tragically, here in Maryland, government officials have been confronted at their private residences by people who disagree with their decisions made while performing their public duties. HB878 doesn't guarantee the safety of Maryland's constitutional officers, but it takes concrete steps to protect them and their families. This bill gives them a tangible way to keep their private information guarded and provides safeguards for them and their families.

Thank you for your consideration. I request a favorable report by the Committee on HB878.