



# J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, Inc.

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February 27, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Esq.  
Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Maryland State Senate  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Smith:

I am writing to you on behalf of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association to express our enthusiastic support for Maryland Senate Bill 0827. This bill, which aims to improve the *Voir Dire* process, is a crucial step towards ensuring fairness and transparency in our judicial system.

The J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association is deeply committed to upholding the principles of justice and equality within our legal system. We believe that every individual deserves a fair trial, and the *Voir Dire* process plays a critical role in safeguarding this fundamental right.

Senate Bill 0827 proposes important reforms that will enhance the *Voir Dire* process in Maryland courts. By increasing transparency and providing attorneys with more information about potential jurors, the bill seeks to mitigate biases and promote a more equitable jury selection process. These provisions are essential for upholding the integrity of our judicial system and ensuring that verdicts are reached based on evidence and the law, rather than prejudice or discrimination.

As members of the legal community, we recognize the importance of continuously striving to improve our justice system. SB 0827 represents a significant opportunity to enhance the fairness and efficiency of jury selection in Maryland, and we urge the Committee to support its passage.

Thank you for considering our position on this important matter. We are confident that the passage of SB 0827 (along with its companion HB 1079) will contribute to a more just and equitable legal system in our great state, and enthusiastically support it.

In service,

Bradley S. Farrar  
President

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