

PAUL D. CORDERMAN
Legislative District 2
Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

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Capital Budget

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 16, 2024

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Chair Will Smith
Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB 632 – Peace Orders – Visual Surveillance

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, & Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 632 Peace Orders – Visual Surveillance.

During the Spring of 2023, our office was contacted by a constituent with concerns regarding a disturbing pattern of behavior being exhibited by their neighbor who had moved in behind them approximately four months earlier in December of 2022. This neighbor has placed 12+ Ring cameras along his property line, some of which are directed towards the constituent's backyard where their two minor-aged daughters care for their farm animals in and near their barn – a place where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists.

Per the local Sheriff Department's instructions, the constituent approached the neighbor to inquire why there were so many cameras pointed directly towards where their young children play. His response was that he had a right to do so. When the constituent attempted to file a harassment or peace order through the Sheriff's Department, they were informed that due to current law and until this man actually harmed the children, no legal recourse could be taken. Given this information, the constituent family attempted to block their neighbor's camera view by installing metal poles with wooden boards attached to the edge of their property line. I have included photos of this on record for the Committee's review. Each time the family attempted to block the neighbor's camera view, he moved his cameras – raising them so that he could still view their backyard and their children. We understand that property owners have a right to place cameras on their property. However, at the same time, this family has the right to a reasonable expectation of privacy. This aggressive and intrusive behavior is unwarranted.

SB 632 authorizes a person to petition for a peace order and be heard in court on the grounds that the respondent is conducting unwanted visual surveillance of an area of a residence where they have a reasonable expectation of privacy. If the petitioner meets their burden in court, the judge would then be able to issue an order to the respondent ordering them to refrain from committing the acts complained of in the petition.

Thank you for your consideration as I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 632.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Corderman".

Paul D. Corderman
District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties