



BILL NUMBER: SB0617

TITLE: Task Force to Study Transparency Standards for State’s Attorneys and the 2 State’s Attorney Case Management System Grant Fund

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

HEARING DATE: February 9, 2024

POSITION: Favorable – with amendments

TurnAround, Inc. respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 617 with amendments. This bill supports the State’s Attorney Case Management System Grant Fund; and altering the membership, reporting requirement, and termination date of the Task Force to Study Transparency Standards for State’s Attorneys.

TurnAround, Inc. supports and advocates for survivors of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking. We provide direct services to approximately 3,000 to 4,000 survivors annually and respond to nearly 10,000 calls per year, double our typical pre-pandemic volume. Our Community Engagement and Training Team reached 14,000 community members in the Greater Baltimore area last year alone through prevention education and awareness activities.

Through this extensive, community-based work, we frequently see survivors of these crimes face barriers to justice through the legal system. According to an analysis of US Department of Justice data [conducted by The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network \(RAINN\)](#), “about one out of four reported rapes leads to an arrest, and only about one out of four arrests leads to a felony conviction and incarceration.” Survivors face stigma, gaslighting, and backlogs of rape kits that often sit untested for years, a [problem we have seen first-hand locally](#) and are working closely with county officials to address.

Transparency at the State’s Attorney’s Office level is crucial to ensuring justice for these survivors. We support SB617 and its inclusion of one representative of a crime victims’ advocacy group, appointed by the Governor; and we respectfully request that another seat on the taskforce be dedicated to specific representation for survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence through the Executive Director of the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence and the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault.