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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony for Senate Bill 617**  
**Task Force to Study Transparency Standards for State’s Attorneys and the State’s Attorney Case Management System Grant Fund**  
**February 9, 2024**

Good afternoon, Chair Smith, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Senate Bill 617 (“SB 617”) incorporates recommendations contained in the final report from the Task Force to Study Transparency Standards for State’s Attorneys (“Task Force”). The Task Force recommended that (1) all State’s Attorneys’ offices should adopt and use an automated case management system (“CMS”); (2) a statewide uniform data collection procedure should be adopted within the CMS; (3) the State should provide State’s Attorneys’ offices with the funding needed to assist with CMS setup and data sharing; (4) there should be some form of data publication; and (5) the Task Force should be extended for three years, and it’s membership should be expanded.

First, SB 617 creates a special, nonlapsing, CMS Grant Fund (“the Fund”). The Fund will provide State’s Attorneys’ offices with funds only to establish or improve CMSs. The Fund will consist of money appropriated in the State budget, interest earnings of the Fund, and money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund.

The Executive Director for the Governor’s Office of the Crime Prevention and Policy will administer the Fund. The Executive Director will establish procedures to apply for and receive Fund grants, and solicit proposals from State’s Attorneys’ offices.

When State’s Attorneys’ Offices apply for a grant from the Fund, they must provide a description of the CMS they seek to establish or improve, and other information the Executive Director considers necessary. Once an office receives a grant, that office must submit proof of the expenditure of the funds to the Executive Director.

Second, SB 617 exempts the Fund from Md. Code Ann., State Finance and Procurement § 6-226(a), allowing the Fund to accrue its own net interest.

Further, SB 617 increases the members of Task Force to include the Executive Director, the Attorney General, or their designee, and the Public Defender, or their designee. Finally, SB 617 prolongs the length of Task Force to remain effective for a period of 5 years and shall end June 30, 2027.

As such, I respectfully request a favorable report for SB 617.