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Vice Chair, Rules Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB 190 *Law Enforcement Wellness Checks Requirements***  
**(*Gabriel's Law*)**

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chair and members of the Judiciary Committee.

As amended Senate Bill 190 *Law Enforcement Wellness Checks Requirements* is legislation that would require a law enforcement agency that receives a “qualified request” for a wellness check to take certain actions in response to a wellness check.

The definition of the a “qualified request” is outlined in the legislation, which means a verbal or written request that includes sufficient information that has specific life-threatening concern that is made in a manner that allows law enforcement to respond to the persons making the request.

Delegate Jamila Woods, who I cross-filed this legislation with, has a personal story, as it relates to her late son **Gabriel**, who died on the morning of **September 7, 2021**... because a wellness check was **NOT** done, because it could not be verified.

Gabriel lived in Richmond, Virginia and he had some health issues and when his mother did not hear from him, she called the Richmond police department to do an immediate wellness check. However, she was told that there was a requirement for the Prince George's County Police Department to contact the Richmond Police Department to verify the request... all this back and forth went on for hours and delayed a timely wellness check, which was necessary because of Gabriel's health issues, specifically with having seizures.

In closing, I can't help, but believe that Gabriel may have survived if his wellness check done was done in a timely manner.

Lastly, there was an additional amendment added to ADD “**Gabriel's Law**” to the title of the bill. Therefore, I urge a favorable report for SB 190 as amended.