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**To:** Members of the House Judiciary Committee

**From:** Family Law Section Council

**Date:** January 30, 2024

**Subject:** **House Bill 290:**  
Crimes – Interception of Wire, Oral, or Electronic communications – Exception for  
Imminent Danger

**Position:** **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT**

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The Maryland State Bar Association’s (“MSBA”) Family Law Section Council **supports with amendment House Bill 290:** Crimes – Interception of Wire, Oral, or Electronic communications – Exception for Imminent Danger.

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Family Law Section Council (“FLSC”) of the MSBA. The FLSC is the formal representative of the Family Law Section of the MSBA, which promotes the objectives of the MSBA by improving the administration of justice in the field of Family law and, at the same time, tries to bring together the members of the MSBA who are concerned with Family laws and in reforms and improvements in such laws through legislation or otherwise. The FLSC is charged with the general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section and authorized to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself could act. The Section has over 1,200 attorney members.

The FLSC urges a favorable report with the following amendments:

Page 2, Line 17-18: A crime of violence, as defined in Public Safety Article, §5-101(c)

Page 2, Line 10: change felony to misdemeanor

Referencing the Public Safety Article instead will include 2<sup>nd</sup> degree assault.

Should you have any questions, please contact Michelle Smith by telephone at 410-280-1700 or by e-mail at [msmith@lawannapolis.com](mailto:msmith@lawannapolis.com) or Lindsay Parvis by telephone at 240-399-7900 or [lparvis@jgllaw.com](mailto:lparvis@jgllaw.com), 111 Rockville Pike, Suite 975, Rockville, MD 20850.