



Testimony of Paul Schwartz
February 21, 2024
Judicial Proceedings Committee
SB 610 – Crimes – Interception of Wire, Oral, or
Electronic Communications – Exception for Imminent
Danger

I am Paul Schwartz, State Legislation Chair for NARFE, National Active & Retired Federal Employees.

We strongly support passage of SB 610.

We are in the electronic age and not to fully use our electronic capabilities to protect the vulnerable among us is an abdication of the government's responsibility to protect its citizens – specifically our children and our elderly, two groups that often rely on home care services

It is not uncommon to hear about elder abuse or child abuse.

This bill simply attempts to address an oversight in our laws by authorizing single consent to intercept a wire, oral, or electronic communication if the person has a **good faith belief** that an individual is in imminent danger of becoming the victim of a crime of violence, stalking, abuse, or a protective order

If that person fails to demonstrate a good faith belief via evidence then that person will be in violation of this law

Currently there are some 35 or so states, D.C., and the Federal Wiretapping Statute as well as Military Rules of Evidence that require ONE PARTY consent.

Maryland is currently in the minority of just seven states that require ALL-PARTY consent for audio recordings AND do not authorize exceptions such as for imminent danger

Just think how different the country's political situation would be if the state of Georgia required TWO PARTY consent

This bill simply attempts to place the protection of the ABUSED above that of the ABUSER

I strongly support a favorable review of SB 610