

Oppose HB0290

Del. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner - Disclosure of Autopsy Information and Maintenance of Investigative Database

Position: UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

The proposed bill hinders transparency and accountability in government operations. By restricting access to autopsy information and maintaining an investigative database that is not subject to the Maryland Public Information Act, the bill conceals critical information from the public. In turn that may interfere with open research, investigations, and reporting, ultimately preventing the public from holding government entities accountable.

Additionally, the bill attributes interpretations and conclusions solely to the Chief Medical Examiner, excluding alternative opinions and perspectives. This centralization of authority further reduces transparency and prevents a comprehensive understanding of the findings, which is crucial for public trust and accountability.

Please oppose this bill to ensure that government operations remain transparent and accessible to the public.

Thank you for consideration,
Mark Meyerovich
Gaithersburg, MD
District 15