

TESTIMONY on Senate Bill 525

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law – Video Evidence and Reward Programs

February 05, 2025

SUPPORT/FAVOR

Submitted by: Sharon Y. Blake

Chair William C. Smith Jr., Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher and honorable members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I, Sharon Y. Blake, am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 525, Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law – Video Evidence and Reward Programs. I am a concerned resident of Baltimore County, District 10, personally aware of, and affected by, the problem Senate Bill 525 addresses. As many of you may be aware, District 10 includes the Liberty Road corridor, which is constantly littered with debris and that, with great regularity, due to the regular recurrence of the problem, Madame Speaker, Adrienne Jones, conducts cleanup campaigns along that corridor. I have joined her in those recurring efforts.

The passing of Senate Bill 525 will send a powerful message to the citizens, that the problem is important enough to be addressed, and that their involvement is necessary and, by offering the possibility of a reward when they submit video evidence of pollution, actually solicited. Moreover, compelling each County to establish such a program may well significantly deter participation behavior, which demeans, erodes and defaces a community.

In addition, Senate Bill 525 has the potential to assist our understaffed law enforcement agencies in their efforts to enforce illegal dumping and littering without drawing them away from other more pressing matters as to which they are required and expected to “Protect and Serve”.

It is for these reasons, I urge this committee to support Senate Bill 525, Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law – Video Evidence and Reward Programs with a favorable vote.

Thank you