



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

SB 311 Government Officials' Family Protection Act of 2025

POSITION: Favorable

BY: Linda Kohn, President

DATE: January 29, 2025

The League of Women Voters of Maryland is a nonpartisan organization with a mission to involve all Marylanders in the democratic process that is free, equitable, and inclusive. One of the key elements to that is ensuring that those in office reflect and represent the differing communities who call Maryland their home.

Unfortunately, as we have seen recently in the news as well as in the past couple of years in Annapolis, those who have chosen to serve as an elected or official representative of the Maryland government and their families are coming under threat that includes physical harm, harassment, bullying, threats, and in some cases doxxing. SB 311 would enshrine that those who come under threat, especially family members, including children, have recourse to handling these problems if they arise.

It is critical to say that we cannot have the diverse mix of state officials we are fortunate to have in Maryland— which encourages marginalized communities to participate in democracy— if people are too fearful for their lives and/or families lives to run for office, accept appointments, or take jobs that would put them in harm's way.

Many of the officials that SB 311 would protect sign up because they feel a strong commitment to civic duty and want to serve their communities. LWVMD is hopeful that added protections for officials and their families will deter those who might otherwise commit crimes as well as give a semblance of peace of mind to those currently serving.

The League of Women Voters urges a favorable report on SB 311.