

TESTIMONY TO THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

SB 532 – Police Discipline – Order to Show Cause

**POSITION: Oppose** 

BY: Linda Kohn, President

DATE: February 7, 2025

The League of Women Voters supports a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages.

**SB 532** seeks to authorize a police officer who is being investigated for misconduct to interrupt those investigative proceedings by filing a claim in the state circuit court contending that certain rights are being violated.

The bill calls for a procedure that is antithetical to the process established in the <u>Maryland Police Accountability Act (MPAA) of 2021</u>. In the MPAA's disciplinary protocol, the accused must go through the entire administrative process before appealing their decision to a court and cannot interrupt the process to complain to a court that one or more of their rights has been violated. It is unclear why an exception should be made in this instance.

We urge an unfavorable report on SB 532.