



Maryland's First  
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Sheriff's Office



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**SHERIFF MAXWELL C. UY**

February 5, 2025

**VIA E-MAIL: [malcolm.augustine@senate.state.md.us](mailto:malcolm.augustine@senate.state.md.us)**

Senator Malcolm Augustine  
214 James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **Senate Bill 553 – Victims and Witnesses – U Nonimmigrant Status –  
Certification of Victim Helpfulness**

Dear Senator Augustine,

I am writing to express my support for the above-referenced proposed legislation that would streamline the U-Visa process by reducing processing time for law enforcement certifications, requiring the development of protocols for petitioners with limited English proficiency and creating a rebuttable presumption of “helpfulness.” Each of these procedural changes will undoubtedly serve to enhance the U-Visa process and ultimately serve to protect victims of domestic abuse.

As Sheriff in Montgomery County, I oversee the Family Justice Center (FJC) facility that provides comprehensive support services to victims of domestic violence. The U-Visa process has served as an invaluable incentive to protect otherwise vulnerable immigrants that rely upon the FJC’s services. Given the uncertainties of the current immigration enforcement initiatives of the new Federal administration in Washington, these procedural changes in the U-Visa process should allay fears that vulnerable immigrants have about the U-Visa process by requiring an expedited certification process and also by requiring that such certifying entities provide assistance protocols for those individuals who lack English proficiency.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and thank you for your steadfast efforts in advancing this legislation.

Sincerely,



Maxwell C. Uy, Sheriff

cc: Delegate Jared Solomon (via e-mail)