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Anne Arundel County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Children,  
Youth, and Families



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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**SPONSOR TESTIMONY**  
**Senate Bill 721**  
**Family Law - Protective Orders - Consent**

Chairman Smith and Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce Senate Bill SB721 Family Law - Protective Orders - Consent

For the record, I am Senator Shaneka Henson from the 30th Legislative District of Anne Arundel County, MD.

Overall, this intent of this bill is to alter the statutory provisions that govern the issuance of a permanent protective order by specifying that an individual may consent to the issuance of such an order.

SB721 sets in place the ability to issue a permanent protective order based on the respondent's consent. It allows for a permanent protective order to be entered into if the respondent is agreeable, simplifying this process for survivors.

This bill benefits everyone. It prioritizes the safety of survivors by removing the hurdle of survivors having to return to court once the respondent has served a sentence for 12 months and altogether simplifies the process by allowing a permanent order of protection when the respondent is agreeable.

A permanent protective order keeps in place the "stay away" and "no contact" portions of the final protective order. Easier access to permanent protection orders allows survivors to move forward with their lives feeling safe and secure without the fear of their abusers returning to contact them.

In conclusion, I respectfully request a favorable report for SB721 – Family Law – Permanent Protective Orders – Consent. This legislation represents a crucial step in providing survivors with more options to ensure safety and protection. Thank you for your time and consideration.