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The Honorable Members of the House Committee

Maryland General Assembly

Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Testimony in Support of HB0579 – U Visa Certification Process Improvement Act

Dear Chairperson and Committee Members

I am writing to express my strong support for HB0579, which seeks to streamline the certification process for U Nonimmigrant Status Petitions (U visas) and expand protections for crime victims in Maryland. As a community leader, advocate for the immigrant community, I have witnessed firsthand the barriers that victims of crime face when seeking justice and protection.

The U visa program plays a critical role in public safety by encouraging non-citizen victims to cooperate with law enforcement without fear of deportation. However, many victims struggle to obtain certification from law enforcement agencies due to inconsistencies, delays, and a lack of clear guidelines. HB0579 addresses these challenges by clarifying certification requirements, broadening eligibility, and ensuring a more transparent process.

By passing this bill, Maryland will take an essential step in strengthening trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement. It will ensure that more victims could seek justice while helping law enforcement hold perpetrators accountable. This legislation is not just about immigration, it is about public safety, community trust, and ensuring that all residents, regardless of status, are protected under the law.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB0579 and support this necessary reform. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Wambui

