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January 21, 2025

The Honorable Luke Clippinger & Members of the House Judiciary Committee
Taylor House Office Building, Room 101
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairperson Clippinger and Judiciary Committee,

The Frederick County State's Attorney's Office and the Maryland State's Attorney's Association support **HB236 Peace Orders - Intentional Visual Surveillance**. The MSAA encourages the legislature to strengthen protections against invasive and harmful behavior that violates personal privacy and safety. The bill explicitly targets *intentional* visual surveillance that intimidates, harass, or harm individuals.

This bill will provide a legal mechanism for victims to seek immediate protection and hopefully deter invasive surveillance and preventing it from escalating into more serious forms of harassment or violence. With the increasing use of surveillance devices such as drones, hidden cameras, and other tools, intentional visual surveillance has become an emerging issue which requires a clear legal response and boundary that respects public safety.

We ask for a favorable report of HB 236.

Sincerely,

Joyce King
Chief Counsel
Co-Chair MSAA Special Victims Committee