TERESA E. REILLY *Legislative District 35A* Cecil and Harford Counties

Deputy Minority Whip

Health and Government Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Health Occupations and Long Term Care Public Health and Minority Health Disparities

Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

Chair Harford County House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB1356 - Criminal Procedure - Pretrial Release - Bail

February 28, 2025

Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Bartlett, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee:

HB1356 – Criminal Procedure – Pretrial Release – Bail – will prohibit a District Court Commissioner from authorizing pretrial release of a defendant on personal recognizance or unsecured bail, if a defendant has been charged with a crime and was released on unsecured bail within 5 years, or who has failed to appear in court while released on unsecured bail. Moreover, Judges may authorize the pretrial release of a defendant on a secured bail; and any other conditions that will reasonably ensure that the defendant will not flee or pose a present danger to another person or the community. This bill, if passed, will allow us to close a loophole that allows for individuals to continue to commit crimes repeatedly and obtain release without sufficient consequences or safeguards in place to prohibit it.

I respectfully request a FAVORABLE report from the committee.

Sincerely,

Delegate Teresa Reilly District 35A Cecil and Harford Counties