

Good afternoon members of the House of Delegates and Judiciary committee.

My name is David Myles. I currently serve as one of Rockville's City Councilmembers, work full-time as a pediatrician and was honorably discharged from serving active duty in the US Navy. I am providing testimony in support of House Bill 0021 in my personal capacity as someone who has called Maryland home since I moved to Baltimore in 2010 to complete a pediatrics residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Despite a resume that may be impressive to some, I am still a Black man and have personally experienced the deliberate abuse and misuse of the Commissioner system on more than one occasion.

Just over a year ago, I was packing and cleaning my home in preparation for an overseas job interview the following day. As I was vacuuming, a group of officers with guns drawn and pointed at me entered my home to fulfill a warrant that had been issued on the false premise that there was a loaded gun in my home. The person who fraudulently submitted that petition to the Commissioner had already removed the ammunition. I seriously thought that I may be shot and killed in my home and I recall sending a text to my immediate family indicating to them that there are police in my home and that my mother is the primary beneficiary of my will. When the officers searched the home, they verified that there were no loaded guns. To say I was traumatized is an understatement. No Black man ever wants police in his home with guns pointing at him. After spending thousands of dollars on legal fees, I was able to have the fraudulently drafted protective order expunged from my record. Just over a year after that incident, you all thankfully passed SB340 last session which made it a civil liability to make false statements to authorities that could lead to bodily harm as this individual had done.

Months later, this same individual physically assaulted me while I was carrying my five-year old child by scratching, biting, shoving (as I was descending downstairs) and ultimately knocking me over as I tried to leave my home. That individual called 911 and, in a strange twist of fate, was himself arrested by police, charged with assault, jailed and processed after police collected evidence including photos and body worn camera footage. That individual also lost custody of my child and access to my home. Days after being released from jail, that individual went to a commissioner to file false charges and testimony inconsistent with the police report and directly contradicting reporting from a CPS interview of my child days later. That individual did not indicate that they were charged and arrested in their statement of charges to the Commissioner. As I was walking to pick my child up from school, I was contacted by the sheriff's department stating that there was a warrant issued for me. To say I was confused is an understatement as I already had a protective order against this individual that had been approved in District Court by a Judge the previous day. Up to that point, I had spent the previous four days attempting to keep to routines for my child—a child who had already witnessed their father being assaulted. It took approximately seven hours for me to be processed prior to my being able to return home.

The implications of this second false statement to the Commissioner and associated warrant have been much more costly. I knew I would have to spend thousands of more dollars in legal fees, but I wasn't prepared to have been placed on administrative leave at work, being disinvited from giving a previously scheduled speech to a national coalition of pediatricians on Capitol Hill, having the story of this warrant making it to print and TV media while I was running for re-election which inappropriately cast me as the perpetrator of my own assault. All this is the result of a Commissioner issuing a warrant based on false testimony plainly contradicted by an available police report, body worn camera footage and a ruling from the District Court Judge the day before. The charges against me were appropriately ultimately

dismissed but I got no apology, acknowledgement nor compensation from the Commissioner, States Attorney nor the State of Maryland.

As much time and resources as I have put into getting where I am professionally, I recognize that my reputation may never recover from this most recent inappropriately issued warrant. More important is the toll that this has had on my then five-year-old child who began displaying behavioral issues in school. And as much as I have been wronged by this broken Commissioner system, I hope to use whatever remaining resources I have to make sure that this system is changed so that it does not happen to anyone else. It is experiences like mine that make it that much more difficult and stigmatizing for men who have experienced domestic violence to take action and talk about it—especially a six-foot three inch cis-gendered Black man who, up until the aforementioned event, had a spotless record.

While I recognize the need to reduce barriers for people to file complaints, giving a Commissioner the ability to issue arrest warrants based on unverified (and sometimes patently false) testimony puts people's physical and professional lives at risk. These experiences have made it very clear that House Bill 0021 should be passed and enacted as soon as legislatively possible, and I hope that all members of this body will work toward that goal.

Thank you for your time.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David E. Myles, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'M'.

David E. Myles, MD

Rockville City Councilmember