



TESTIMONY FOR HB0301

Custodial Interrogation of Minors Admissibility of Statements

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Moon

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0301 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The goal of HB0301 is to streamline the process of using forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis and search (FGGS) in criminal investigations by simplifying the criteria for judicial authorization. Specifically, it aims to alter the requirements for obtaining judicial authorization for FGGS. The bill repeals the need for a sworn affidavit to assert that reasonable investigative leads have been pursued and failed to identify the perpetrator. Instead, it requires only an affidavit that asserts the identity of the perpetrator is unknown.

Our members are advocates of legislation that leads to swifter and more precise identification of criminals. This results in the prevention of further crime, the reduction of injustice system through *accurate* identification, and faster justice for victims. Furthermore, this legislation builds public trust in our criminal system while deterring potential criminals. By promptly addressing criminal activities, we forge a safer, more just, and trusting society.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill, and we recommend a FAVORABLE report in Committee.