



February 12, 2026

**Bill:** Senate Bill 121 - Personal Information – Public Servant Protections  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
**Position:** Favorable

The City of Gaithersburg respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 121, legislation that provides critical protections for the personal information of public servants and their families.

Local elected officials, municipal employees, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and other public servants increasingly face threats, harassment, and intimidation that extend beyond their workplaces and into their homes. In an era of widespread online access to personal data, the ability to easily locate and disseminate home addresses, contact information, and family details presents real and escalating safety concerns. Senate Bill 121 responds directly to these risks with a thoughtful, balanced approach that protects public servants while preserving transparency and legitimate public interest.

SB 121 establishes clear and reasonable procedures allowing protected individuals, or the agencies they serve to request that personal information not be published or be removed from online platforms. Importantly, the bill creates a consistent statewide framework rather than forcing individuals or local governments to navigate a patchwork of informal or reactive solutions. This clarity benefits public servants, governmental entities, and members of the public alike.

Municipal governments depend on talented individuals who are willing to serve their communities often in highly visible and, at times, controversial roles. Ensuring that these individuals and their families are not exposed to unnecessary risk is essential to recruitment, retention, and effective governance. SB 121 sends a clear message that Maryland values public service and takes seriously the responsibility to protect those who serve.

For these reasons, the City of Gaithersburg urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 121. We thank the Committee for its leadership on this important public safety issue and appreciate your consideration.

We appreciate your consideration of this requested amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Jud Ashman, Mayor  
City of Gaithersburg

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