

DGW Written Testimony for HB 1056 Senate Hearing.p

Uploaded by: Deborah Williams

Position: FAV

HOUSE BILL 1056-General Provisions-Commemorative Days-Purple Lights Night

IN SUPPORT

To the Government, Labor and Elections Committee Chair and the Delegate Sponsors:

My name is Deborah (Gill) Williams, a lifelong Marylander having lived in three of our counties. I was a victim of domestic violence (in my family line) for most of my life. I have two adult children and a granddaughter. Having seen the world through the lens of dysfunction, I know what we can do with the proper support and acknowledgement of a known problem of large proportions. I've been there and back and it has taken me years to get on my feet and stand up to the abusers in my family and in the broader community. With access to mental health and financial resources I'm one of the "lucky" ones.

I'm a member of the Executive Board of the Women's Democratic Club of Montgomery County and the Board of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation where we support the work of the MCFJC within the Sheriff's Department.

I fully support a state-wide day of recognition, October 1st. This is a crucial next step in shining a light, a purple one, on the hidden suffering, shame and abandonment felt by more than half of women, families and even men in our state. Could there be a better example of a way to have a positive impact by educating ourselves about the harm being done to a vulnerable subset of residents, neighbors and friends?

There are many things we can do to address the unacceptable treatment of domestic violence victims; by passing laws and creating a pathway for solution driven, actionable steps. Common sense laws were introduced in the current session although not enough will pass this year. We will keep going.

While we wait for our government to catch its breath, we are healing and helping each other in the name of human rights and the essential core of community, our families. A return to civic responsibility and understanding the cost of non-action by ALL of us is the goal. I believe in this work so much. We deserve more productive lives so we, each and every resident of this state, can ALL get things done.

Enactment of House Bill 1056 is a good start for more hope, more thriving and better groundwork for a vibrant and healthy Maryland economy.

It starts with one day every year, October 1st.

Thank you.

Deborah G. Williams, CPA
Tax, Finance and Money Coaching Professional
Advocate, Friend and Optimist

HB1056 - MCFJCF testimony in favor.pdf

Uploaded by: Kristy Warren

Position: FAV



Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 1056 – Purple Lights Night
Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation (MCFJCF)
Kristy Warren, Executive Director

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristy Warren, and I serve as Executive Director of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation (MCFJCF), a key nonprofit partner in the Montgomery County Family Justice Center collaboration. I write in strong support of House Bill 1056, Commemorative Days: Purple Lights Night.

MCFJCF works alongside public and nonprofit partners to support families affected by domestic violence through coordinated, trauma-informed services. Through our LifeLine program, we provide critical, immediate assistance that helps stabilize families in crisis and keep them safe during the most dangerous time, when they are preparing to leave abusive situations. In 2025 alone, we supported nearly 2,000 families, reflecting both the scale of need and the importance of accessible, community-based support.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month each October plays a vital role in education and outreach. House Bill 1056 strengthens these efforts by creating a unifying, statewide moment of visibility and engagement.

Research and experience consistently show that increased awareness leads to earlier intervention, greater connection to services, and improved outcomes for families. When communities visibly demonstrate support, it reduces stigma and helps survivors feel safer seeking help. Earlier access to support can reduce the severity and duration of abuse and improve long-term stability for families.

There are also broader community and economic impacts. Domestic violence affects workplace stability, healthcare utilization, and public safety resources. Increasing awareness and encouraging earlier connection to services can help reduce these downstream costs while strengthening family resilience. At the county level, coordinated responses like the Family Justice Center model, widely recognized as a best practice, improve efficiency and lead to better outcomes for families.

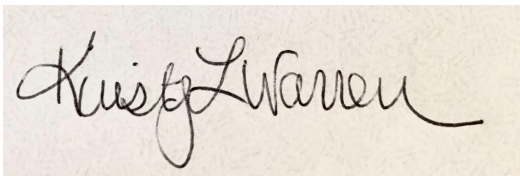
A designated Purple Lights Night provides a simple, visible way for residents, businesses, and local governments across Maryland to participate. It creates a shared message of support, reinforces available resources, and builds a culture where seeking help is encouraged.

As we look ahead to Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 2026, Purple Lights Night offers an opportunity to anchor coordinated, community-wide efforts that amplify awareness, prevention, and access to services across the state.

House Bill 1056 is a meaningful step toward strengthening support for families and communities across Maryland. For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to supporting survivors of domestic violence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored, textured background. The signature reads "Kristy Warren" in a cursive script.

Kristy Warren
Executive Director
Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation