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**ADT Security Services' Testimony
Before the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
Holly Borgmann
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ADT Security Services
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Chairwoman Wells and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Holly Borgmann, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for ADT Security Services.

With nearly 150 years of industry experience, ADT is the leading provider of residential and small business security services in the United States. On behalf of our more than 13,000 employees who help save lives for a living, I would like Delegate Mireku-North for bringing this bill forward, and to thank you for this opportunity to offer our strong support for House Bill 978, a common-sense bill that would allow Maryland General Assembly members to better protect themselves from threats that may arise as a result of their candidacy or elected office.

One need only pick up a newspaper to see that threats against elected officials are on the rise. I would venture a guess that some in this very building have been on the receiving end of threats and harassment. The Brennan Center for Justice reports that more than 40 percent of state legislators nationwide have experienced threats or attacks in recent years. And just last month, the US Capitol Police reported that they saw a 50% increase in threats in 2025 to Members of Congress, their staff, and the Capitol building over the prior year.

The concern for safety among public officials has only grown after the horrific murders of Minnesota Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, the attempted murder of a member of the Minnesota Senate and his wife, and the assassination of national political commentator Charlie Kirk.

Too often, I receive calls from elected officials who have been threatened and need security assistance. Every single time, I hear from the person on the other end of the phone, "It's not myself that I'm worried about - it's my family." These threats are happening in red and blue states and are directed at members of both parties – whether made directly in the form of a phone call or email, or indirectly in the form of "pizza doxxing," where a pizza is sent to a candidate's home to show that the person making the threat knows where the person lives and can get to them.

A number of states already allow the use of campaign funds for security expenses, including California, Louisiana, Minnesota, and most recently, Illinois and South Dakota, and Members of Congress are given \$20,000 per month for security. The Federal Election Commission recently voted to allow federal candidates to use campaign funds to pay for security. By passing this legislation, Maryland would be aligning with a growing recognition that elected official safety is a real concern.

No security system is failsafe, but recent advances in technology allow residents to check surveillance cameras when they hear an unexpected noise, or to talk through a video doorbell instead of opening a door to a stranger. Video clips can be preserved or sent to law enforcement for investigation, and homes can be monitored when the candidate is away.

Regardless of political beliefs, no one should have to choose between the safety of their family and their right to engage in the political process. If committed Marylanders are driven out of politics by fear, we will all miss out on the unique perspectives they could have brought to the table. House Bill 978 will help public servants protect themselves and their families while working to represent their communities in the public policy arena.

On behalf of ADT, I thank you for your consideration and ask for a favorable vote for House Bill 978. Thank you for your time and consideration.