

SB 902/HB 978: General Assembly - Home Security System Expenses - Campaign Funds and Reimbursement: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Education, Energy & the Environment Committee and Economic Matters Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE SB 902/HB 978**, *General Assembly - Home Security System Expenses - Campaign Funds and Reimbursement*.

Campaign donations are intended to support legitimate election-related activities, constituent outreach, and public advocacy—not to subsidize personal home improvements or security upgrades for elected officials. **Permitting the use of these funds for private residential expenses blurs the line between campaign finances and personal benefit, eroding public trust in our political process and potentially inviting abuse.**

Similarly, allowing state reimbursement for personal home security systems treats legislators' private residences as public expenses, which is inappropriate. Maryland taxpayers should not foot the bill for individual officials' home security, especially when many constituents face their own safety and financial challenges without such perks. Existing security measures for legislators (such as those provided through state resources when threats are credible and documented) already address legitimate concerns tied to public service—without dipping into campaign accounts or general funds for routine home installations.

This bill sets a troubling precedent that could expand to other personal expenses, further disconnecting elected officials from the everyday realities of Marylanders. We need stricter safeguards on campaign finance use and greater accountability, not new loopholes for personal enrichment.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against SB 902/HB 978** and oppose any measures that allow campaign or state funds to cover legislators' personal home security expenses.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration to this matter and for representing the interests of your constituents.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals