

Dear Members of the **Judicial Proceedings Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore and in collaboration with Out for Justice. I am a resident of **District 45, and I am testifying in support of HB336 Criminal Procedure – District Court Commissioners.**

As the law currently stands, individuals may seek the arrest of fellow citizens by presenting allegations directly to district court commissioners. This process has had significant consequences for those accused, including job loss, financial hardship, damaged credit, and harm to their reputation in the community.

House Bill 336 would prevent district court commissioners from issuing warrants based on citizen complaints. If a commissioner believes public safety demands issuance of a warrant, both the State's Attorney and a judge would have to agree before such a warrant could be issued. This would ensure that the serious decision to have someone arrested would be subject to serious legal review, reducing the potential for abuse.

Maryland is one of only eight states that provides individuals with the most latitude to bring about charges. Delaware eliminated this practice in 2022. According to the Delaware Justice of the Peace Court, this change has increased public safety. HB336 would protect people from false accusation while ensuring that warrants can still be issued in cases of true danger. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support Criminal Procedure – District Court Commissioners and False Statements HB336.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Brytani Fraser**

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Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



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