

**Testimony Supporting HB0351
Constitutional Rights - Violations and Digital Unmasking**

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Chair, Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, and esteemed members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing to ask you to vote in support of House Bill 351. This bill is a commonsense evidence preservation measure that would ensure that pertinent digital evidence is saved for future use in the event a misconduct complaint is filed against a judicial officer. Specifically, the Attorney General, a State Prosecutor, or a State's Attorney would be authorized to direct state and local law enforcement agencies to gather and retain identifying digital data about judicial officers in cases involving officer misconduct, including violations of constitutional rights, civil rights laws, or criminal laws.

The bill is not authorizing "doxxing" because the information is non-public and is saved confidentially, and would only be disclosed to a complainant pursuant to a court order in connection with legal proceedings.

Creating a mechanism for obtaining and preserving digital information is critical to holding judicial officers accountable to the public they are charged with protecting. It would have the added benefit of serving as a deterrent to abusive conduct if judicial officers knew the digital data associated with their interactions with the public could be presented in misconduct cases against them.

Many in our communities are fearful for good reason because they see officers apprehending people without probable cause and based on unlawful racial profiling. They see excessive force being used by officers in some cases. Maryland should do what it can to alleviate the fear and stop these abuses.

For these reasons, I urge your favorable report on HB0351 as amended.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melinda Littell
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