



## TESTIMONY TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

### HB 0835 – CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - NO-KNOCK SEARCH WARRANTS

#### POSITION: FAVORABLE

BY: Linda Kohn, President

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The League of Women Voters believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The League is convinced that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged. This includes 4th Amendment of the US Constitution which states: “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.” The League of Women Voters further supports a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, and transparent in its policing practices.

By prohibiting no-knock warrants, **HB 0835** seeks to reduce the confusion and possible harm that unanticipated searches or seizures may cause by requiring law enforcement officers to announce their purpose and authority, execute warrants between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and give reasonable notice of the officer’s authority and purpose to alert any occupants of the premises to be examined.

There have been multiple and well-documented [instances](#) of innocent persons who have been harmed during the execution of no-knock warrants performed in the middle of the night, sometimes at the wrong address. Moreover, a ban on no-knock warrants follows the spirit of fair and transparent policing which characterized legislation that created the Police Accountability Boards under the [Maryland Police Accountability Act \(MPAA\) of 2021](#).

For these reasons, **the League of Women Voters of Maryland**, a member of the Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability and representing nearly 2,000 citizens throughout Maryland in its own right, **strongly urges you to issue a FAVORABLE report.**