



Continuing the Missions of the Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation, Inc.

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RE: FAVORABLE – HOUSE BILL 1366

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center (MCVRC) respectfully submits this letter in **support of House Bill 1366**. Every day, MCVRC works with victims of domestic violence and other crimes who rely on protective orders as a critical safeguard for their safety. For many victims, the period following abuse is marked by heightened fear, anxiety, and emotional distress. Protective orders are often the primary legal tool available to provide a sense of stability and protection while victims attempt to rebuild their lives.

HB 1366 takes a common-sense approach to strengthening these protections. When a respondent has been placed on probation, the criminal justice system has already recognized that the individual committed a serious offense and continues to require court supervision. Allowing a protective order to expire while a respondent remains on probation can leave victims vulnerable during a period when accountability and monitoring are still necessary.

Victims did not choose to be part of the criminal justice system. Yet they often carry the lasting emotional and psychological consequences of abuse. Ensuring that protective orders remain in effect throughout a respondent's probation period helps reduce fear, promotes stability, and supports the mental well-being of those who have already endured significant trauma.

For these reasons, MCVRC respectfully urges the Committee to issue a **favorable report on HB 1366**.

Respectfully submitted,

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