

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB332 Civil Actions - Violation of Constitutional Rights (No Kings Act)

House Judiciary Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee:

I, Lia Nigro, am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of **HB332 Civil Actions - Violation of Constitutional Rights (No Kings Act)**

As an activist it is frightening for me to know that if my constitutional rights are violated by federal officers—if I am punished for exercising my right to free speech, or take part in a peaceful protest that is violently subdued—I basically have no recourse. At best a ruling may come down telling my persecutors “you can’t do that again.” There is no penalty for the harms already done. And that lack of penalty makes it more likely that a violation will happen, as we are seeing around the nation today.

If my rights are violated by local or state officials, I am able to sue. Federal officials should be no different. No one should be above the law.

The State of Maryland has the right to act to address this injustice. This bill does not seek to interfere with federal officials performing their lawful duties, nor does it single out these officials as a special class. Therefore it is not prohibited by the Supremacy Clause.

California, Massachusetts, Maine, and New Jersey already have implemented similar legislation. Maryland should join them, to help protect its citizens from abuse.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB332.

More Information:

“Resuscitating State Damages Remedies Against Federal Officials,” State Courts Reports
<https://statecourtreport.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/resuscitating-state-damages-remedies-against-federal-officials>