



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

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RE: FAVORABLE TO HOUSE BILL 1320

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center (MCVRC), I write in strong support of House Bill 1320. This is a common-sense bill grounded in a simple truth: victims deserve to know what is happening in their cases. At the most critical and chaotic stage—when charges are filed—many victims are unaware that they must affirmatively request notification to receive updates about custody status and court hearings. HB 1320 fixes that gap by requiring law enforcement officers and District Court commissioners to inform victims of their right to request notification through the MDEC system and by ensuring those requests are entered at the time of charging.

No victim should learn of a defendant's release by accident. No family should miss a hearing because they were never told how to sign up for notice. This bill strengthens Maryland's commitment under Article 47 of the Declaration of Rights by making victim notification real and accessible from the outset.

HB 1320 is not expansive or burdensome. It is practical, efficient, and necessary. It enhances transparency, promotes safety planning, and restores confidence in the justice process. For these reasons, MCVRC respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 1320.

Respectfully submitted,

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