



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

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

☎ 877-VICTIM-1 (877-842-8461)

✉ mail@mdcrimevictims.org

🌐 mdcrimevictims.org

1001 Prince George's Blvd, Suite 750
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
301-952-0063 (Phone)
301-952-2319 (fax)

1 North Charles Street, Suite 700
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-234-9885 (phone)

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RE: OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 113

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center (MCVRC), I respectfully oppose House Bill 113. This bill would make convictions for resisting arrest and knowingly making false statements to law enforcement eligible for expungement. While expungement plays an important role in appropriate cases, these offenses directly undermine the rule of law and the protection of innocent people. Maryland has already significantly expanded access to expungement within the last five years, and those provisions are widely used. Further expansion to include conduct that obstructs lawful authority goes too far.

A safe and just society depends on respect for lawful authority and truthfulness in the justice process. Resisting a lawful arrest increases the risk of harm to officers and bystanders and escalates already volatile situations. Knowingly providing false information diverts limited investigative resources, delays justice, and can harm innocent individuals. Maintaining accurate records of such conduct serves an important public safety interest and reinforces accountability.

If we are to build a society that follows the rules and protects the innocent, we must affirm that obstructing lawful arrests and deceiving law enforcement are serious matters. For these reasons, we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 113.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna D. Mupanduki

Joanna D. Mupanduki, Esq.

Deputy Director

Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center, Inc.