

Testimony on House Bill 835 – Favorable

**Presbyterians for Police Transformation
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church**

Regarding HB 835 – Criminal Procedure - No-Knock Search Warrants

**Submitted to the
Maryland House Judiciary Committee**

February 24, 2026

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

Presbyterians for Police Transformation offers favorable testimony in support of **HB 835 - Criminal Procedure – No-Knock Search Warrants**. We are grateful for the opportunity to offer strong support for HB 835 No Knock Warrants, sponsored by Delegate Gabriel Acevero. We endorse both the legislation’s goal of eliminating no knock warrants and limiting hours that warrants can be served.

Members of the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church are active in anti-racism work including efforts to redefine public safety and transform policing through the efforts of our working group, Presbyterians for Police Transformation. We have been studying and advocating for changes that will place the sanctity of life above all else, in other words to create a guardian rather than a warrior culture within police departments.

Banning no knock warrants as well as limiting the hours that warrants can be served is a needed addition to the Police Accountability Act of 2021 to further that goal. Surprising someone by forcing entry into one’s home unnecessarily creates a response controlled by instinct rather than an understanding of the situation. This frequently ends in tragic and avoidable deaths or serious injuries to the people inside, the police officers themselves and/or innocent bystanders. And to what end? To confiscate evidence. That is troubling as it seems to us that evidence is seen as more valuable than a human life.

We strongly urge you to unanimously issue a **favorable report** on **HB835**.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Submitted by Ruth Noel (rmnoel@verizon.net) on behalf of Presbyterians for Police Transformation, 310 Tulip Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912