

February 16, 2026

Written Testimony on HB332

Civil Actions – Violation of Constitutional Rights (No Kings Act)

Judiciary

Position: Favorable

Dear Judiciary Committee Members:

My name is Julie A. Rosen, and I submit this written testimony as an individual resident of Montgomery County, Maryland (MD District 16), and a member of the National Council of Jewish Women, MD State Project Advocacy Committee. I write to urge your support for **HB 332**, *Civil Actions – Violation of Constitutional Rights (No Kings Act)*.

Given the ongoing ‘battles’ with Federal Administration representatives from multiple cabinet agencies, the people of the United States need to strengthen both our human rights and civil rights afforded by the US Constitution. I am particularly interested in the violations of Amendments 4 and 14 that were written to protect unreasonable search and seizure, and the due process to protect against wrongful imprisonment.

I realize the current federal administration is ‘rewriting the Founders’ intention of the US Constitution to benefit a unitary executive. As current US Congress members and Supreme Court justices ‘fiddle’ while our democracy is burning, I am thankful that the Constitution is founded on a united, but not uniform, set of self-governing States. I am especially thankful to live in Maryland where critical thought and rational interpretation are primary. I fully agree with constitutional law scholar Akhil Reed Amar who stated that “[t]his is exactly what the framers imagined: state law protecting us against federal abuses.”

While recent revelations of such abuses are focused in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) behavior –on the streets, in the media, and from the White House—the current federal administration continues to take away individual, community, and regional liberties across the county and cabinet-level agencies. Therefore, I am especially in favor of HB332’s emphasis on the “right, privilege, or immunity secured by the U.S. Constitution” and “the deprivation of Constitutional rights.” Finally, I appreciate and support the text that does not “waive or abrogate any defense of sovereign immunity,” which I hope will shield this state law (once passed) from lawsuits likely to be filed in the future.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB332. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Rosen, Ph.D.