

January 24, 2026

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Aberdeen Proving Ground, 21005

TESTIMONY ON HB0349 – IN SUPPORT

Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Use of Body-Worn Cameras

TO: Chair Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair Delegate Debra Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Ydelka A. Schrock

My name is Ydelka A. Schrock. I am a resident of Harford County District 34A. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB0349, Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Use of Body-Worn Cameras, on behalf of Together We Will Harford County Indivisible (TWW). TWW is an inclusive and diverse group of 500 regular members, with over 1,000 followers on social media, working together to create a just community that empowers individuals to participate in our democracy and stand up for social, racial, and economic justice to create a place where all can thrive.

For law enforcement officers to perform their duties the public needs to approve of their existence, actions, and behaviors. The people's perception of the legitimacy of police officers is only maintained by their ability to secure respect in their actions, particularly as it concerns the use of force. In the United States we have witnessed federal agents destroy the public's trust to appropriately fulfill their duties. They have been undermining investigations and releasing reports proven to be dishonest when compared with witness testimony and video evidence. Safeguarding the people's trust in law enforcement is imperative during these times.

Body-worn cameras can be used by law enforcement officers to improve transparency, civility, and provide corroborative evidence, when dealing with civilian encounters. Wearing body cameras will help hold officers accountable for their actions and maintain community trust.

On behalf of TWW, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0349.