



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

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

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RE: FAVORABLE TO HOUSE BILL 1053

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center (MCVRC) respectfully supports **House Bill 1053**.

Youth sports play an important role in teaching teamwork, discipline, and respect. However, officials, umpires, referees, and judges increasingly face hostility and even violence while performing their duties. These individuals are essential to ensuring that games are conducted fairly and safely, yet they often serve in volunteer or community roles and should not have to fear for their safety.

House Bill 1053 provides a clear safeguard by prohibiting intentional physical injury against a sports official while officiating an event. By explicitly recognizing sports officials in the law, the bill reinforces the importance of maintaining a safe and respectful environment at sporting events and helps ensure youth sports remain positive community experiences for players, families, and officials alike. Please vote in favor of this common-sense bill.

For these reasons, MCVRC respectfully urges a **favorable report** on House Bill 1053.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna D. Mupanduki, Esq.

Deputy Director

Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center, Inc.