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## **HB 802 – Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance – Intercepted Communications – Admissibility of Evidence**

**Hearing Before the Judiciary Committee  
February 24, 2026**

### **Position: FAVORABLE**

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To the Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

[Community Legal Services](#) (CLS) supports House Bill 802. CLS provides free legal services to income-eligible Marylanders, with a goal of ensuring that everyone, regardless of income, has access to justice. We provide legal advice and representation to thousands of individuals and families every year. We strive to help our clients obtain and maintain family, housing, social and economic stability.

As part of our practice, we provide legal assistance and representation to survivors of domestic violence, primarily in Prince George’s County. Clients we serve have often experienced extreme trauma and abuse, and on top of that, they face nearly insurmountable barriers to justice and ensuring accountability for their abusers. HB 802 would remove one such barrier by allowing survivors to introduce into evidence recorded proof of their abuse. Recordings of abuse are often the most relevant and clear evidence that abuse has occurred. Yet under current law, most such recordings are inadmissible for use in court, and in fact survivors risk fines and penalties for even having made the recordings. This bill would ameliorate the risk of penalties and prosecution of survivors who have made recordings in a sincere, and often desperate, attempt to protect themselves.

This bill is narrowly tailored and has built in guardrails to prevent improper recording and also includes requirements that must be met in order for recordings to be admissible. The bill strikes an appropriate balance between privacy concerns and the very urgent need for survivors to have actual tools to protect themselves.

For these reasons, Community Legal Services respectfully urges the Judiciary Committee to **issue a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 802**. Please feel free to contact Lisa Sarro, Esq., at [Sarro@clspgc.org](mailto:Sarro@clspgc.org) or Jessica Quincosa, Esq., at [Quincosa@clspgc.org](mailto:Quincosa@clspgc.org) with any questions.