



Maryland State Board of Victim Services

100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

Steven J. Kelly, Esq.
Chair

February 10, 2021

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr., and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SENATE BILL 484 - Criminal Procedure - Victims of Crime - Private Room
POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland State Board of Victim Services supports Senate Bill 484, which requires the Board to develop a poster to notify a victim of the right to request a private room in a law enforcement agency when reporting a crime, other than a homicide, that involves injury to a person. The bill requires that law enforcement display the poster and provide a private room to a victim upon request. Victims often have a fear of reporting to law enforcement, and Senate Bill 484 allows them to do so in a private and confidential manner.

Senate Bill 484 aligns with the mission of the Maryland State Board of Victim Services, which is to ensure crime victims in Maryland receive justice and are treated with dignity and compassion through comprehensive victim services.

For these reasons, the Maryland State Board of Victim Services urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 484.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SJK", followed by a horizontal line.

Steven J. Kelly, Esq.
Chair