



**BILL:** HB0395

**BILL TITLE:** Public Records - Retention and Inspection - Communications (Transparency in Public Records Act of 2022)

**BILL SPONSOR:** Delegate Stewart

**COMMITTEE:** Health and Government Operations

**POSITION:** FAVORABLE

**HEARING DATE:** February 11, 2022

### TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB0395

Represent Maryland, a grassroots pro-democracy group that advocates at the local and state level, believes all branches of government should be transparent and accountable to the people.

Historically, communications with public officials at the local, state, and federal levels are non-transparent. Information is withheld from the public, and decisions are made in private by unknown players. That information and those decisions impact all citizens and voters. Further, attempts to reveal the content of these communications have been suppressed by those officials. This is not inline with democracy where the government is supposed to serve the people, not hide from it.

We support all efforts to make what happens within government open to the public without fear of retaliation, and therefore support HB0395.

Sincerely,  
Ben Tabatabai, Member  
Represent Maryland  
Maryland Voter-LD-07

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Represent Maryland is a grassroots anti-corruption group of citizen advocates that #FightForDemocracy in Maryland. Our democracy solutions include: Public Election Funds, Independent Redistricting, Special Elections, Ranked Choice Voting, Increased Ethics and Transparency, and Increased Voter Participation. Learn more about our work at [www.RepresentMaryland.org](http://www.RepresentMaryland.org)  
Authorized by Represent Maryland PAC, T. Miller, Treasurer