

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am a resident of MD District 46 and **I am testifying in support of HB 532.**

This bill bans no knock warrants in the State of Maryland, requiring officers to give notice of their authority and purpose before entering a house. This bill would also require all warrants to be served between 8:00am - 7:00pm.

No-knock warrants are most notorious for the needless death and trauma that follow them. While data on these incidents is hard to collate because it's not systematically tracked by anyone, a New York Times investigation found that 81 civilians were killed in no-knock warrants between 2010 and 2016¹, and we have all seen newspaper accounts of cases like those of Breonna Taylor and Amir Locke, where violent and unannounced police raids led to totally preventable tragedy. Our homes are the one place above all others that a person, a family, should feel safe, but as long as no-knock warrants exist, anyone can be a victim of a surprise invasion by armed hostile forces.

Serving warrants at night serves to maximize the possibility of confusion by occupants, on the theory that the police will have an advantage against folks who are disoriented, unsure what is happening, and unprepared for the police to show up. In reality, all this does is increase the danger to everyone involved. Residents, woken suddenly by screams and pointed weapons, have no idea what is happening, and assume they are under attack by hostile forces. Amir Locke, for example, was killed because he reached for his legally-owned handgun to defend himself. This kind of violent, unannounced entry leads to more danger for police, not less, and it also increases the risk that the officers themselves- in the dark, in a rush, and full of adrenaline- will make mistakes: identifying ordinary objects as weapons, interpreting fumbling or confused actions by occupants as a threat, and acting too quickly.

Late night warrants are de facto escalations that create risks without benefits. It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of HB 532.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Keipper
2425 Fleet St.

¹*Door-Busting Drug Raids Leave a Trail of Blood.* New York Times, March 18, 2017. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/03/18/us/forced-entry-warrant-drug-raid.html>