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**PROPOSED MARYLAND LEGISLATION HARMFUL TO PEOPLE
AND THREATENS LEGAL DUE PROCESS**

(Annapolis, Maryland) – The National Association of Professional Process Servers (NAPPS), along with the Mid-Atlantic Association of Professional Process Servers (MAAPPS), have grave concerns about pending legislation that establishes rules that allow for people to be served legal documents by mail rather than in person.

Senate Bill 586, and its companion bill in the House of Representatives (HB 388), designates the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) as an “agent” for process serving by mail in legal actions related to motor vehicle accidents or collisions occurring within the State of Maryland.

Jeff Bannister, NAPPS President, says the legislation sets a dangerous precedent. “As organizations committed to protecting the due process rights of individuals entering the legal system, we oppose any bill that circumvents that process and allows for service by mail,” he said.

Michael Mills, Legislative Director for MAAPPS, agrees. “Judicial expediency is no excuse for circumventing established rules designed to afford litigants proper notice and supportive of their due process rights,” he said. “These are critically important legal rights granted to people under our federal and state constitutions”

A hearing on Senate Bill 586, which is co-sponsored by Sen. Bobby Zirkin (D, Baltimore County), and Sen. Victor Ramirez (D, Prince George’s County), was conducted February 23. The House has yet to hold a hearing on HB 388.

Mills, a business owner engaged in serving civil process within the State of Maryland, testified in opposition to the legislation in the Senate. “The rights of all citizens need to be put before the special-interests of a select few in Maryland which is why my organization stands firmly opposed to the proposed legislation,” he said.

NAPPS, the preeminent professional process server association, with over 2100 members in the United States, Canada, and other foreign countries, has, as one of its core values, the protection of litigants’ due process rights.

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NAPPS is a worldwide organization founded on the principles of professionalism and high ethical standards.

For more information about NAPPS, visit www.napps.org .