

# MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Jewell Williams

DATE: February 17, 2011

RE: Co-sponsorship: Identity of Witnesses in Certain Cases

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In the near future, I plan to re-introduce legislation that would allow a law enforcement officer, prosecuting official, victim, or witness to request a protective order be granted to conceal the identity of a witness or victim testifying in court. The individual would be able to testify by teleconference, have his or her voice distorted, or employ other methods to prevent visual identification. Also, security measures including transportation to court, a secure room at the courthouse or other facility, and police protection would be provided. Protection orders of this nature would be granted in cases where the witness or victim has been intimidated or is likely to be intimidated as a result of the testimony.

Witness and victim intimidation is a reality when it comes to the court system. All too often witnesses and victims do not come forward, or recant their testimony out of fear to their well being. Protective orders can help provide a feeling of safety to witnesses and victims because their identities can remain unknown. My legislation would make it easier for law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys to secure protective orders for those individuals who are in need of protection.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Ashley Jere' Roach via e-mail at [aroach@pahouse.net](mailto:aroach@pahouse.net). Thank you.