



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of SB 1036: Maryland Emergency Management Agency Services-
Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office- Establishment

Dear Chair Pinsky,

Our State and local governments are responsible for safeguarding sensitive civilian and security-related data in their information systems. Senate Bill 1036 establish a Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations office within the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). I commend Senator Hester for introducing this bill which will enable jurisdictions across the state to better respond and plan against cybersecurity attacks. This new office would also assist local governments to further implement cybersecurity best practices at the local level.

Ransomware attacks can compromise critical state and local government operations. Since 2013, there have been 169 publicly reported state and local government ransomware attacks nationwide. The St. Mary's County Government, Baltimore City Government, and the Salisbury Police Department have also experienced data breaches in recent years. Cybersecurity attacks can also put Maryland residents' personal information at risk. In 2018, the Office of the Attorney General reported 4,049,531 data breach cases affecting Marylanders. Senate Bill 1036 defines a cybersecurity attack as a public safety emergency and I am encouraged that this bill would meet this challenge.

The Howard County Office of Emergency Management and the Department of Technology and Communication Services are prepared to address cybersecurity attacks and technological emergencies. Evaluations of these and other risks are in the Comprehensive Emergency Response and Recovery Plan and the Howard County IT Strategic Assessment and Roadmap. Senate Bill 1036 can complement these efforts and promote further collaboration with our State partners by establishing the Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office.

I urge a favorable report on SB 1036.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive