Maryland Chiefs of Police Association
Maryland Sheriffs' Association

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chairman and
Members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Chief David Morris, Co-Chair, MCPA, Joint Legislative Committee
Sheriff Darren Popkin, Co-Chair, MSA, Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 18, 2020

RE: **HB 607 – Public Safety – Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT** HB 607. This bill establishes a Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence (CITCE) in the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) to assist local governments, law enforcement, public safety agencies, behavioral health agencies, and crisis service providers with behavioral health crisis response.

As law enforcement increasingly engages individuals experiencing varying degrees of mental illness, these types of interactions have shown a true need for police and mental health service providers to partner together to better serve people experiencing mental health crises. The National Standard and Best Practice for Law Enforcement is the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Model. HB 607, Public Safety – Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence, addresses this as a "Best Practice" and collaborative approach by creating a CIT Technical Assistance Center and Committee, which will provide guidance and appropriate links to services, and possible diversion from the criminal justice system. As many law enforcement agencies in Maryland have adopted a Crisis Intervention Team or utilize modeling and procedures from CIT teams, the future collaboration from this Center of Excellence for all stakeholders, will continue to improve the interactions of Public Safety, with those experiencing mental health issues.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT HB 607 and urge a FAVORABLE committee report.