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FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION

February 18, 2020

Chair Luke Clippinger
Room 101
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 607: Public Safety - Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence

POSITION: Letter of Information

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services is providing this letter of information for House Bill 607: Public Safety - Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence.

House Bill 607 would establish a Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence ("CITCE") in the Governor's Office of Justice, Youth, and Victim Services ("The Office"). The CITCE would be responsible for (1) providing technical support to local governments, law enforcement, public safety agencies, behavioral health agencies, and crisis service providers, and (2) developing and implementing a "crisis intervention model program."

A crisis intervention model program is a nationally recognized program developed by the University of Memphis in Tennessee. This includes a police-based first responder program that provides for crisis intervention training for law enforcement when dealing with individuals who suffer with mental illness. The program would be based within the patrol division of local law enforcement teams, and would be voluntary.

While the operation of the CITCE would be housed within the Governor's Office of Justice, Youth, and Victim Services, the CITCE would be guided by a planning and implementation committee. The committee would be made up of members from the public safety, behavioral health, and crisis intervention fields. The Office would be responsible for appointing 8 members of the planning and implementation committee for the center.

The operation of the committee is subject to the limitations of the State budget. However, in order to implement the legislation as designed, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services would be required to hire three individuals. According to the bill, the CITCE shall appoint the following individuals to oversee the center: (1) a Crisis Intervention Coordinator, (2) a Mental Health Coordinator, and (3) An Advocacy Coordinator.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

For all inquiries, please contact
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