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**FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES**

February 25, 2020

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

**RE: House Bill 831: Criminal Law – Attempt to Commit Second–Degree Murder – Penalty**

**POSITION: Support**

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services supports House Bill 831: Criminal Law – Attempt to Commit Second–Degree Murder – Penalty.

This legislation increases the maximum penalty for a person who attempts to commit murder in the second degree. Currently, individuals who are convicted of attempted second-degree murder are guilty of a felony and subject to 30 years imprisonment. This bill would increase the maximum penalty to 40 years.

In Maryland law, a murder is in the first degree if it is (1) a deliberate, premeditated, and willful killing; (2) committed by lying in wait; (3) committed by poison; or (4) committed in the perpetration of or an attempt to perpetrate other specified crimes. Second-degree murder is a murder that does not meet all of the elements of first-degree murder. Chapter 515 of 2016 increased the maximum penalty for second-degree murder from 30 to 40 years. This legislation would bring the maximum penalty for attempted second-degree murder in line with this change.

For all inquiries, please contact  
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For these reasons, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services supports House Bill 831 and urges a favorable report.

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

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