



Troy D. Berry  
Sheriff

# Office of the Sheriff

Charles County, Maryland

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March 4, 2021

The Honorable William C. Smith  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

Re: SB 750 – Charles County Pre-Trial Release Programs

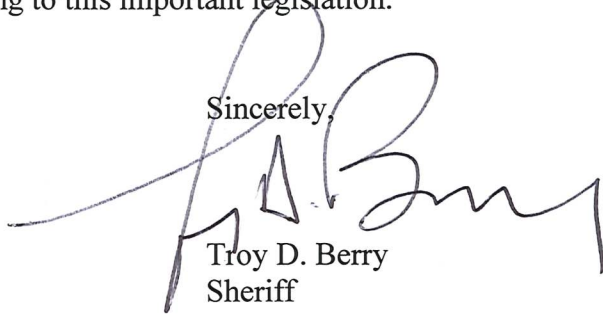
Dear Senator Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

SB 750 addresses an important issue in Charles County: a lack of pre-trial services for those accused of a crime in the county. I have repeatedly spoken of the need for such a program, and my staff has worked with our local delegation, our County Commissioners, and our local Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to begin the process of creating the program.

I support SB 750. I believe it is essential that Charles County have a pre-trial services program that is independent from law enforcement. A police agency should not take a position on whether a defendant should be released or incarcerated, nor should a detention facility – especially not one run by a police agency. As described in SB 750, the Sheriff's Office can provide *assistance* to the County's program. Should SB 750 become law, I look forward to working with our County Commissioners to help the County establish and administer the program.

Thank you for the attention you are providing to this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Troy D. Berry  
Sheriff