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March 30, 2022

The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: HB1222 - Public Health – Baltimore City Behavioral Health Crisis Incident Review Team

Position: Support

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, is writing to express **SUPPORT for HB1222 - Public Health – Baltimore City Behavioral Health Crisis Incident Review Team** – which would establish a Behavioral Health Crisis Incident Review Team in Baltimore City including law enforcement and other stakeholders. We would also like bring to your awareness a point of information, we would like to see the opportunity for psychologists to be involved and for that to be included.

We applaud and fully support the Baltimore City Behavioral Health Crisis Incident Review Team and its goals to identify the root causes and patterns within and public systems that result in behavioral health crisis involving law enforcement. Moreover, the Incident Review Team's objective of using that information to provide recommendations based on the identified factors and assist in implementing those recommendations will hopefully bring about valuable systemic change.

For these reasons, MPA urges the committee to **favorably report on HB1222 - Public Health – Baltimore City Behavioral Health Crisis Incident Review Team and would like to see psychologists included.** If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the MPA Executive Director, Stefanie Reeves, MA, CAE at 410-992-4258 or exec@marylandpsychology.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,

Linda McGhee

Linda McGhee, Psy.D., J.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs