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TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: SB840 - Public Safety - Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Fund –
Establishment (**Support**)

The Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on Senator Kramer's bill Senate Bill 840. Senate Bill 840 establishes the Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Fund, a special fund administered by the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS), to make grants to nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, to provide security enhancements to protect against hate crimes. The bill largely codifies an existing grant program – the Protecting Against Hate Crimes Grant Program – administered by GOCPYVS.

This program fund is essential to supplement nonprofit organizations to prevent hate crimes based upon the State's hate crimes statutes as contained in Title 10, Subtitle 3 of the Criminal Law Article.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on SB840.

cc: The Hon. Ben Kramer & Committee Members

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or sbrantley@oag.state.md.us.