



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

GABE ALBORNOZ
COUNCILMEMBER – At Large

CHAIR
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

January 24, 2024

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Gabe Albornoz
Montgomery County Councilmember – At Large

RE: **Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 48 – Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission – Police Officer Certification - Eligibility**

It is an honor to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 48 – Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission – Police Officer Certification – Eligibility. Expanding the eligibility of those who can serve our communities is a win for all. Those who have served our country, are honorably discharged, and are permanent legal residents deserve the opportunity to bring their skills and diversity to our local police forces.

Our local police agencies will benefit from additional recruits who can bring much needed diversity and multilingual skills to local law enforcement. Currently in Montgomery County, we have a 12.6% vacancy rate. That equates to 161 vacant officer positions in a police force that provides law enforcement for a population of over 1 million residents. Every filled position counts.

This Senate Bill is an important and necessary step in supporting our local law enforcement agencies. Please give Senate Bill 48 a favorable report.