



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

March 5, 2024

The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
Chair, Judiciary Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support of HB1063 – Criminal Organizations – Criminal Prohibitions, Civil Actions, and Forfeiture**

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Committee members,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1063, which aims to address critical issues related to criminal organizations within our state. As Baltimore City's States Attorney I'm deeply invested in the safety and well-being of our community, I believe that the provisions outlined in this bill are essential steps towards combating organized crime and ensuring justice for victims.

House Bill 1063 introduces significant measures to establish the statute of limitations for civil actions resulting from participation in criminal organizations. By implementing a five-year timeframe following the termination of criminal conduct, this bill provides a crucial window for individuals to seek damages. This limitation period is necessary to facilitate timely legal action while ensuring that victims have the opportunity to pursue justice.

Furthermore, the bill expands the definitions of "criminal organization" and "underlying crime," providing a comprehensive framework for identifying and prosecuting organized criminal activities. By encompassing both formal entities and informal associations engaged in patterns of organized crime, the legislation broadens the scope of law enforcement efforts to combat illicit activities effectively.

Additionally, HB1063 authorizes civil actions for injunctive relief and damages, empowering individuals and the state to take legal action against criminal organizations. These provisions not only provide avenues for victims to seek compensation but also enable authorities to disrupt and dismantle criminal enterprises through civil forfeiture procedures.

Moreover, the bill incorporates measures to divest criminal organizations of their assets and revoke licenses or charters associated with unlawful activities. By imposing



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significant penalties and sanctions, including the dissolution of enterprises and the forfeiture of property, this proposed law will serve as a deterrent against engaging in organized crime while promoting public safety and accountability.

I firmly believe that the enactment of HB1063 is vital for safeguarding our communities from the pervasive threats posed by criminal organizations. By strengthening legal mechanisms, enhancing law enforcement capabilities, and providing avenues for restitution, this legislation underscores our commitment to upholding justice and protecting the welfare of all residents.

I urge you to support HB1063 and advocate for its swift passage through the legislative process. Together, we can take decisive action to combat organized crime and ensure a safer, more secure future for our state.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

*Ivan J. Bates*

Ivan J. Bates  
State's Attorney for Baltimore City

By: Hassan Giordano  
Chief, External Affairs Committee