



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr. Chairman and  
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Chief David Morris, Co-Chair, MCPA, Joint Legislative Committee  
Sheriff Darren Popkin, Co-Chair, MSA, Joint Legislative Committee  
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: January 29, 2020

RE: **SB 212 – Criminal Law – Assault in the First Degree – Suffocation or  
Strangulation**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT SB 212. This bill would make strangulation or suffocation during an assault a first-degree felony.

Women who are victims of domestic violence are often strangled by their partners. Studies have shown that if a woman is strangled one time by her partner, she is 750% more likely to later be killed by that same partner. Treating strangulation and suffocation as a misdemeanor does nothing to deter a partner from taking similar actions again. Maryland should join the 47 other states that already classify strangulation and suffocation as felonies.

SB 212 will increase safety and save the lives of domestic violence victims across the state. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA SUPPORT SB 212 and urge a FAVORABLE Committee report.