

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR DELORES G. KELLEY

**REGARDING SENATE BILL 479 - PUBLIC SAFETY - MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING
AND STANDARDS COMMISSION - CITATIONS IN LIEU OF ARREST**

BEFORE THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Mr. Chairman and Members:

Given significant legislative interest in moving Maryland towards best police practices, such as issuance of citations in lieu of arrest (where appropriate), I am pleased to introduce Senate Bill 479, which requires the development of a training module to help Maryland police departments have access to training regarding best practices for the issuance of citations, in lieu of arrest and detention, where appropriate.

Senate Bill 479 requires Maryland's Police Training and Standards Commission, in consultation with the Anne Arundel County Police Academy to develop and maintain a uniform statewide training and certification curriculum that includes role-playing exercises to prepare our police officers throughout Maryland to use best practices in the issuance of citations in lieu of arrest.

The Anne Arundel County Police Academy is prepared to teach best practices for use of citations in lieu of arrest. The Academy is able to certify and issue certificates to qualified instructors, to verify that police officers have satisfactorily completed training programs, and to consult with and accept cooperation of any recognized federal, State or municipal law enforcement agency or educational institutions.

In light of the many advantages of training Maryland police officers to issue citations (where appropriate) in lieu of arrest, and given the outstanding police training and certification capabilities of the Anne Arundel County Police Academy, I urge your favorable support of Senate Bill 479.