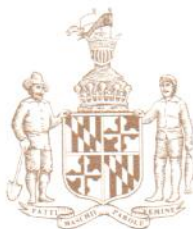


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Testimony in Support of House Bill 479 –Public Safety – Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission – Citations in Lieu of Arrest

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of **House Bill 479 –Public Safety – Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission – Citations in Lieu of Arrest.**

As part of our continued efforts at justice reinvestment and pretrial reform, we have expanded -- and continue to look at expanding -- the categories of relatively minor offenses that can be handled by citation rather than arrest. House Bill 479 augments our efforts to avoid incarceration where appropriate by directing the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to develop and maintain a uniform statewide training and certification curriculum that includes role-playing exercises aimed at preparing law enforcement for issuing citations in lieu of arrest. Such citations are only allowed under certain circumstances, and officers are afforded significant discretion in issuing citations rather than arresting. For the officer's sake as well as the sake of individuals potentially charged, proper training is imperative.

I respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 479.