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FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES

February 25, 2020

Chair Luke Clippinger
Room 101
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 741: Empowering Communities to Counter Racially Motivate Violent Extremism Program Fund – Establishment

POSITION: Letter of Information

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services ("Office") is providing this letter of information for House Bill 741: Empowering Communities to Counter Racially Motivate Violent Extremism Program Fund – Establishment.

House Bill 741 would create a grant fund at the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. This grant would provide financial assistance to local governments to administer programs that train individuals on the identification of warning signs of racially motivated extremism and best practice for combating extremism.

The legislation defines racially motivated violent extremism as a situation in which a person threatens the use of force or uses force or violence in violation of a State or federal law in furtherance of political or social agendas motivated by a hate bias related to race, color, or national origin against another individual or group. The Office would be responsible for developing procedures for administering the grant.

The Governor has included \$3.0 million for "Protecting Against Hate Crimes" grant funding in FY20 and FY21 budgets. This funding has been made available to provide support to nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, with facilities and membership that can be targeted for a hate crime to provide security enhancements.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.

Executive Director

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

For all inquiries, please contact
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