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BILL NO.: **HB 741**

TITLE: Public Safety – Empowering Communities to Counter Racially
Motivated Violent Extremism Program Fund - Establishment

SPONSOR: Delegate Luedtke

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 25, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 741 – Public Safety – Empowering Communities to Counter Racially Motivated Violent Extremism Program Fund – Establishment. The fund would provide grants to local governments to train individuals to recognize signs of racially motivated violent extremism and develop practices for reporting and preventing this extremism.

The past few years have seen a disturbing rise in racially-motivated hate crimes across the United States, and Maryland has not been immune to this trend. In 2018, there were seventy-six hate crimes in Baltimore County, a number significantly higher than 2015’s forty-nine. It is essential to address this issue by taking steps to guarantee that local communities are empowered to address bigotry – failing to do so means that the number of hate crimes will continue to grow. HB 741 would provide local jurisdictions the resources they need to address this disturbing trend.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 741. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.