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Bill: House Bill 1275 Correctional Services – Inmate Release
(Suzanne Jones Act)
Sponsor: Delegate Corderman
Date: February 24, 2020
Committee: House Judiciary Committee
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Clippinger,

For the record, I am Chief Victor Brito of the Rockville City Police Department and am writing to provide **SUPPORT FOR HB 1275**. The naming of this bill stems from a horrific incident that occurred in the City of Hagerstown resulting in the death of Suzanne Jones while I was the Chief of Police for the Hagerstown Police Department.

Ms. Jones' assailant, Jack Lee Phillips, while having no ties to the Hagerstown community, had been released into the City of Hagerstown under a "homeplan" that lead him to be living at a local motel. Subsequently, Mr. Phillips then became engaged in criminal activity and unfortunately and heinously murdered Ms. Jones in one of the most brutal murders that I have been a part of in my law enforcement career.

It is important that we learn from this event and are able to make the necessary changes and adjustments to ensure that this won't ever happen again. HB 1275 will help move us in that direction, by requiring inmates released on parole and probation to be returned and supervised in the jurisdiction they resided in when they were originally arrested.

HB 1275 will help to ensure the public's safety, which as a Police Chief, is my top priority. What happened to Suzanne Jones was an avoidable situation, if Jack Lee Phillips was required to return to the county that he resided in when was originally arrested.

This bill will not only help Western Maryland but will help keep communities safe throughout all of Maryland. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony as I **Urge a Favorable Report on HB 1275**.

Sincerely,

Victor Brito
Chief of Police
Rockville City Police Department