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

March 6, 2020

Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Atterbeary, Members of the Committee House Judiciary Committee Room 101 House Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 1294: Criminal Procedure – Victims of Crime – Private Room

POSITION: Letter of Information

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Committee,

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services ("Office") is providing this letter of information for House Bill 1294: Criminal Procedure – Victims of Crime – Private Room

This legislation will require the State Board of Victim Services to develop a poster to notify victims of the right to request a private room in a law enforcement agency to report crimes under Title 3 of the Criminal Law Article. Law Enforcement entities would be required to display these posters, and provide, on request, a private room to a victim to report info related to such crimes.

The State Board of Victim Services is under the purview of the Office. The Board has 22 members representing crime victims, service providers, and criminal justice related agencies. The mission of the board is to ensure that all crime victims in the State receive justice and are treated with dignity and compassion through comprehensive victim services.

The State Board currently develops pamphlets to notify victims of certain rights, services, and procedures on how to request (1) information regarding an unsolved case, and (2) that an offender be placed on electronic monitoring or electronic monitoring stay-away alert technology.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.

Executive Director

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