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Maryland State Lodge
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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KENNY SCHUBERT
SECRETARY

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February 8, 2021

House Bill 858: Higher Education – Active Duty Law Enforcement Officers – Tuition Exemption

Dear Chairperson McIntosh and Distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police **SUPPORTS** House Bill 858 **Higher Education – Active Duty Law Enforcement Officers – Tuition Exemption.**

On behalf of the more than 20,000 courageous Women and Men of the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police, I wish to also thank Delegate Hornberger for sponsoring this piece of Legislation.

Our members look every day to improve upon the knowledge and tools they have to make themselves better and to better serve the Community. Improving one's knowledge through continued and Higher Education is an important and often overlooked and/or unaffordable tool for many citizens in Maryland, to include Law Enforcement Officers.

This bill would exempt an active-duty Law Enforcement Officer from paying tuition at a public institution of Higher Education in the State if the degree is related to conflict resolution, community relations, or criminal justice. These are all relevant fields for Law Enforcement that would give a Law Enforcement Officer more knowledge and tools to use in the Community, which is beneficial for all.

The Maryland State Lodge would ask for a **minor amendment to HB858**. Some of our members do live outside of the State of Maryland; However, the fact that they work for Agencies in the State of Maryland should be all that matters for this Bill, in our opinion. We therefore request that **HB858 be amended to remove the requirement that the Law enforcement officer lives in the State**. The education earned by the Law Enforcement Officer will be used in that officers daily work which will be in the State. The mere fact that the officer doesn't live in the State of Maryland shouldn't prevent the agency, the community, or the officer from the opportunity to have that officer improve themselves.

The Maryland State Lodge humbly asks that you accept our amendment and further requests that you please show your support for the continuing education of the women and men who protect us every day by voting **FAVORABLE** on House Bill 858 **Higher Education – Active Duty Law Enforcement Officers – Tuition Exemption.**

Sincerely,

Angelo L. Consoli Jr.,
2nd Vice President, FOP, Maryland State Lodge
President, FOP 89, Prince George's County