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February 2, 2021

**Senate Bill 10: Election Law-Polling Sites-Firearms Prohibitions**

Dear Chairman Smith and Distinguished Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On behalf of the Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police, representing over 20,000 members, we **SUPPORT** Senate Bill 10: Election Law-Polling Sites-Firearms Prohibitions, **WITH AMENDMENTS.**

The Oath of Office which law enforcement officers take is a lifetime commitment. The commitment and dedication of our law enforcement officers does not end once they have finished their tour of duty. Law enforcement officers are sworn to protect and serve 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The commitment certainly doesn't end upon retirement. The Oath is a solemn vow which binds an individual to a lifetime of service and dedication to their community, state, and country.

Most Maryland law enforcement agencies require sworn officers to be armed at all times within their respective jurisdictions. In 2004, the United States Congress saw the benefit of law enforcement officers both sworn and retired being armed throughout the United States. The United States Congress knew that additional highly trained armed individuals would enhance the safety of all citizens.

While Senate Bill 10 will make our polling safer, there needs to be an exception made for off duty and retired officers for the reasons stated above.

The amendment offered is as follows:

16-904.

(B) Except as provided in § 16-903 of this subtitle, **or if an off-duty or retired law enforcement officer and the weapon carried or possessed by the officer or retired officer is concealed; and the officer or retired officer is authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State;** a person may not:

The Maryland State FOP would encourage a **Favorable** vote with these amendments in place. However, **without these amendments we cannot support this bill as written.**

Sincerely,

Angelo L. Consoli Jr.,

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, FOP, Maryland State Lodge  
President, FOP 89, Prince George's County