



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger Chairman and  
Members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Chief David Morris, Co-Chair, MCPA, Joint Legislative Committee  
Sheriff Darren Popkin, Co-Chair, MSA, Joint Legislative Committee  
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: January 19, 2021

RE: **HB 286 Hate Crimes – Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) SUPPORT HB 286. This legislation adds law enforcement officers and first responders to the protected classes under State hate crimes.

The intentional act of targeting and attacking individuals because they wear a uniform and carry out their official duties in pursuit of providing for public safety should, as this legislation seeks, be included under the provisions of the hate crimes statutes. Such incidents have been on the rise, in some cases where officers have been singled out, targeted and assassinated, simply because of who they are and what they do.

This legislation, just as intended for the other classes covered, would serve both as a deterrent and as a means of appropriately punishing those who would perpetrate such acts.

For these reasons MCPA and MSA SUPPORT HB286 and urge a FAVORABLE Report.