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Maryland State Lodge
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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February 9, 2021

HB 735 - Income Tax Subtraction Modification – Correctional Officers, Law Enforcement Officers, and Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Personnel (Hometown Heroes Act)

Dear Chairperson Kaiser and Distinguished Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police **SUPPORTS** House Bill 735 - **Income Tax Subtraction Modification – Correctional Officers, Law Enforcement Officers, and Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Personnel (Hometown Heroes Act)**

This Bill will go a long way to showing the Members of Public Safety that the State of Maryland values their service, and what they still have to offer to the State, even in retirement. Enactment of this bill will go a long way towards keeping our members in Maryland once they retire by providing an increase to the allowed amount that can be subtracted from the federal adjusted gross income for a retired Correctional Officer, Law Enforcement Officer, and Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Personnel's Retirement Income. The enactment of HB735 would reduce the age of our Members that would be able to benefit from this Act from 55 to 50 and would create a progressive increase from the current \$15,000 subtraction to a 100% subtraction by 2022. A **FAVORABLE** vote on HB735 would clearly show the support of the State of Maryland to its Public Safety retirees and further incentivize them to maintain their residence in the State of Maryland. Currently, due to retirement tax incentives of some of our surrounding states, our Members frequently change residency to locations outside of Maryland after retirement in order to take advantage of the lower taxes applied to their retirement income. This Bill will go a long way towards continuing to encourage our Police Officers and other Public Safety brothers and sisters who have worked their entire career in Maryland to continue to reside here after their retirement.

On behalf of the more than 20,000 Courageous Men and Women of the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police we thank you for your support and ask for your **FAVORABLE** vote on **House Bill 735 - Income Tax Subtraction Modification – Correctional Officers, Law Enforcement Officers, and Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Personnel (Hometown Heroes Act)**.

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