

Strengthening Mental Health Crisis Response in Maryland

House Bill 129/Senate Bill 12 will:

- ✓ Require local government mobile crisis teams minimize the role of law enforcement in crisis interactions and response
- ✓ Strengthen the existing Behavioral Health Crisis Response Grant Program to ensure Maryland is investing in programs and services that address mental health emergencies
- ✓ Require public safety answering points (the call center where emergency 911 calls are routed) to create a written protocol for mental health crisis calls that come in

In 2019, **1 in 4 people killed by police officers** in America had a known mental illness.

Why are these changes necessary?

Deploying law enforcement as the first response for mental health crisis has led to the criminalization of mental illness in Maryland and across the nation.

- 1 in 4 people with a serious mental illness are arrested during their lives.
- 2 in 5 adults in jail or prison have a diagnosed mental illness.
- 7 in 10 youth in the juvenile justice system have a mental illness

