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TO: The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee

FROM: Rhea L. Harris
Deputy Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: HB 1075 – Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of
Domestic Terrorism Response - **Support**

The Office of the Attorney General (“OAG”) urges the Committee to give House Bill 1075 a favorable report.

House Bill 1075 establishes the Office of Domestic Terrorism Response within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management for the purpose of implementing measures to prepare for, prevent, and recover from domestic terrorism and hate crimes; and requiring the Maryland Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic Terrorism to serve in an advisory role for the Office.

House Bill 1075 is a great start, and the Office of Domestic Terrorism Response should review a process of eliminating extreme terrorism from the ranks of state armed forces. Extreme terrorism has no place in the state armed forces. A person who believes in extreme terrorism cannot also be supportive of the citizens of the State or the Governor. The Attorney General was very supportive of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in FY2022 as a Congressman; and now is Supportive of House Bill 1075 as Attorney General.

Therefore, for the above-mentioned reasons, the Office of Attorney General urges a Favorable Report on House Bill 1075.

cc: Delegate Samuel “Sandy” Rosenberg & Committee Members