

WITNESS: Katherine Strauch Sullivan
JURISDICTION: Baltimore County
BILL#: HB1075 (Cross filed SB785)
TITLE: Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Office of Domestic Terrorism Response

POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

The United States Department of Justice Reports the following:

- The number of crimes in Maryland classified as “hate” crimes in 2018: 50
- The number of crimes in Maryland classified as “hate” crimes in 2019: 19
- The number of crimes in Maryland classified as “hate” crimes in 2020: 40

Based on this limited data set, there is no clear “upward trend” which has been the narrative that has been pushed by our legislators to serve as the basic argument for this bill.

As well, there are already significant resources allocated to Maryland Public Safety:

- \$500 million [Re-Fund The Police Initiative](#) to increase support for state and local police
- An additional \$30 million to Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA) grant recipients;
- \$2.1 million for a ZeroEyes gun detection pilot program;
- \$400,000 for an automated ballistics imaging system for the Maryland State Police crime lab.

And what are the results of all this tax-payer funded spending?

The most recent FBI Crime data on violent crimes in Maryland:

- 24,407 violent crimes were reported in Maryland in 2022. That’s roughly 400 violent crimes for every 100,000 people.
- Maryland’s murder rate of 9.1 murders for every 100,000 people is the ninth highest among states
- Maryland’s robbery rate of 118 incidents per 100,000 is the highest in the nation

BOTTOMLINE: Calling 40 hate crimes a “spike” is disingenuous at best and at worst, an irresponsible misrepresentation of the facts. No one denies Maryland has a failing Public Safety record but this is the wrong solution for this dangerous problem.

Spending millions MORE tax payer dollars to create yet another layer of government bureaucracy will only further distract from our mission which is to support and hold the local jurisdictions already in place accountable in keeping Marylanders safe.

I am vehemently opposed to HB1075 and urge all committee members to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,
Katherine Sullivan