



Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Guzzone:

Vehicles for Change would like to express our strong support for Senate Bill 874, which would establish Community Safety Works as an ongoing program within the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Established as a budget initiative within the Department, Community Safety Works has already provided valuable assistance to nonprofit organizations, businesses and local governments through targeted investments in crime prevention that impact community safety.

Vehicles for Change has been training and placing individuals, most of whom have recently been released from incarceration as auto technicians. We now have 3 locations across Maryland and boasts a 90% completion, 95% placement and less than a 5% recidivism rate. Our graduates are starting at salaries exceeding \$37,000. VFC has benefitted from the support of DHCD grants over the past 5 years and could not have sustained the impact we have had on our interns without this support. In 2023, VFC will train and place an additional 120 individuals. This program saves the State of Maryland millions in the cost of incarceration, reduces crime, increase the number of individuals in the workforce and reunites families, ultimately reducing generational poverty. Our State needs more programs like VFC and our programs need the support of DHCD to continue our success.

Consequently, we request a favorable report on SB874 to continue this valuable program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Schwartz", written over a horizontal line.

Martin Schwartz, President