

February 13, 2023

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair Environment and Transportation Committee 101 Taylor House Office Building 6 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland Inc. has voted to offer **favorable** support for House Bill 1029 - Public Safety - Lights On for Maryland Program - Establishment

This bill will establish, through law enforcement agencies, the administering of vouchers for bulb repairs to low-income drivers who wish to be compliant with traffic laws. Under House Bill 1029, this act will be overseen by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services and funded by a program fund also referenced in the Bill.

In this state, almost half of all traffic stops conducted are on Black Marylanders. Oftentimes, these stops are caused by equipment violations such as repairable lights. House Bill 1029 will aim to abate this issue and its resulting consequence of Black Marylanders. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports House Bill 1029.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland