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BILL NO.: **SB 580**

TITLE: Public Safety – Officer and Community Wellness Training Grant Fund

SPONSOR: Senator Elfreth

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 1, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 580 – Public Safety – Officer and Community Wellness Training Grant Fund. This legislation would establish the Officer and Community Wellness Training Grant Fund.

The overall wellbeing of our local law enforcement officers is critical for enabling our police departments to be as effective as possible in keeping communities safe and secure. As police retention continues to dwindle across the country, it is critical that state and local government take the necessary steps towards maintaining morale, mental wellness, and overall quality of life for law enforcement officers.

SB 580 is a strong step towards supporting our local police forces. Baltimore County has already implemented officer wellness programs and has found these to be successful in assisting officers with mental health difficulties. This bill will provide the necessary funding for the County to not only continue the great work accomplished by these programs, but potentially increase engagement and follow-up in the future.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 580. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.