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**TO:** The Honorable Will Smith Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

**RE:** SB 785 – Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Domestic  
Terrorism Response - **Support**

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The Office of the Attorney General (“OAG”) urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 785 a favorable report.

Senate Bill 785 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.

Senate Bill 785 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 Senate Bill 785 as Attorney General.

Therefore, the above-mentioned reasons, the Office of Attorney General urges a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 785.

**c:** The Honorable Shelly Hettleman

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General’s policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or sbrantley@oag.state.md.us