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Calvert and Prince George's Counties

Environment and Transportation
Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Chairman Clippinger, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB433, a bill that would increase the number of assistant sheriffs in the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office, as well as grant the office the authority to investigate domestic violence calls and shift collective bargaining authority to the Fraternal Order of Police.

As you know, the Office of the Sheriff plays a critical role in maintaining public safety and upholding the law. The additional assistant sheriff position proposed in this bill would help improve in-house accountability and more efficiently implement the provisions of the police accountability legislation that we passed in 2021. This is a crucial step in ensuring that the Sheriff's Office can serve the public effectively and transparently.

Moreover, granting the Prince George's Sheriff's Office the authority to investigate domestic violence calls, to which they already respond, would enable the office to better serve and protect victims of domestic violence. This change would create a more efficient means to serve the public and provide an essential service to the community.

Finally, the bill would shift collective bargaining authority (not involving salary) for the Sheriff, chief assistant sheriff, and assistant sheriffs to the Fraternal Order of Police, creating a more streamlined process for the agency.

I have a deep interest in the success of the Sheriff's Office, and I strongly believe that these changes would allow the agency to better serve the public. The urgent need for this legislation is why I've requested an amendment to make this an emergency bill.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the committee give HB433 a favorable report. Sheriff Carr is also here with me today and can speak to any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration.