



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair and
Members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: March 7, 2023

RE: **HB 978 Criminal Law – Threat Against State or Local Official – First Responder**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT HB 978 WITH AMENDMENTS**. First responder means a firefighter, emergency medical technician, a paramedic, a rescue squad member, and nurse or doctor who provides emergency services.

The intentional act of targeting and threatening individuals because they serve in a public safety profession is horrifying. However, one profession has been left out of this bill - law enforcement officers. Law enforcement officers experience this same type of treatment routinely and such incidents have been on the rise. In some cases officers have been singled out, targeted and assassinated, simply because of who they are and what they do.

To address this oversight, MCPA and MSA request HB 978 be amended to include law enforcement officers.

On page 2 of the bill following line 3, insert the following:

(VI) “LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN 3-201 OF THIS ARTICLE.

For these reasons MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT HB 978 WITH AMENDMENTS** and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee Report as amended.