



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair and
Members of the Appropriations 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: January 31, 2023

RE: **HB 186 – Victim Services Programs – Supplementing Federal Funding and Support (Victim Services Stabilization Act)**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT** HB 186. This bill provides stable state funding to supplement federal funding for victim services in the face of federal budget uncertainties.

The federal Victims of Crimes Act funding supports public or nonprofit organizations that provide services and programs for victims of crimes. This funding is crucial for organizations that assist victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking, homicide, and other crimes.

However, federal funding is subject to fluctuations that may impede the continuity of local victim services. HB 186 would ensure that state funds are available for local organizations to fill the gaps when federal funding waivers. The bill requires state funding to prioritize the continuity and stability of victim services and equitable distribution of funding across the state. Importantly, it would make sure that organizations in Maryland are able to continue to provide high-quality, trauma-informed services without the worry of budget cuts.

The MCPA and MSA believe in comprehensively addressing crime and public safety in our communities. Caring for victims of crime is a key piece of that work. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT** HB 186 and urge a **FAVORABLE** report.