

Written Testimony in Support of HB 0348: *University of Baltimore-Schaefer Center for Public Policy – Funding – Appropriations Committee*

Tia Brunson, Deputy Director of Administration, DPSCS: DPP, MCPM Candidate Cohort 14

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify. My name is Tia Brunson and I am the Deputy Director of Administration for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Division of Parole and Probation and a proud candidate of the Maryland Certified Public Manager Program at the University of Baltimore-Schaefer Center for Public Policy.

I am in full support of House Bill 0348 to provide permanent funding for continued scholarships to the Maryland Certified Public Manager (MCPM) program for public managers across Maryland. After receiving my Master's degree from the University of Baltimore in Criminal Justice and dedicating my career to public safety in Maryland, I realized that in order to continue to build upon my skillset I needed a manager's program fortified in leadership, ethics and professional development. For approximately four (4) years I expressed interest in the MCPM program, but unable to attend due to the cost. There were no scholarships nor employment reimbursement plans available. During my annual check of the program in 2023, I was pleasantly surprised learning of the scholarship opportunities funded by the one-time appropriation. I immediately applied and was humbly grateful as I received my acceptance notification.

I am a proud student of the current MCPM Cohort 14, working diligently along with my colleagues representing leaders from 23 jurisdictions throughout Maryland. During this journey, the program has taught management principles and foundations that support my development as an Executive in State government. I am learning new perspectives in efficiency and growing critical skills that will impact my personal and professional growth. I am developing a Capstone project that will provide my agency with an innovative strategy that supports public safety, collaborates with partnering State agencies and fosters community supervision compliance. This is all due to the scholarship afforded to me.

I respectfully request that this committee ensure that funding is made permanent in support of HB0348.

Thank you for your consideration.