Maryland Chiefs of Police Association
Maryland Sheriffs' Association

MEMORANDUM

TO:	The Honorable William C. Smith Jr., Chair and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM:	Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
DATE:	March 25, 2025
RE:	**HB 1544 - Public Safety - Maryland Law Enforcement Public Service Medal and Key Bridge Collapse Victims Memorial Tribute**
POSITION:	**SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association ("MCPA") and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association ("MSA") **SUPPORT HB 1544 with amendments.** This bill establishes a Law Enforcement Public Service Medal, which is to be considered the highest state honor awarded to law enforcement officers.

The MCPA-MSA expresses their sincere appreciation for the introduction of HB 1544, the Maryland Law Enforcement Public Service Medal Bill. This bill rightfully recognizes the extraordinary bravery and sacrifices of law enforcement officers who have displayed exceptional public service, valor, and heroism. This legislation aligns with our shared commitment to honoring those who go above and beyond in serving and protecting our communities.

The MCPA-MSA firmly believes that HB 1544 serves as a crucial step in reinforcing the respect and gratitude earned by Maryland's law enforcement officers. By formally recognizing those who have demonstrated extraordinary valor, selflessness, and commitment to public safety, this legislation not only honors individual officers but also fosters a culture of appreciation and support for the law enforcement community as a whole. The establishment of the Maryland Law Enforcement Public Service Medal underscores the state's dedication to acknowledging the sacrifices made by officers in the line of duty and ensuring their heroic contributions are never forgotten. For these reasons, MCPA-MSA **SUPPORT HB 1544** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.