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January 26, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **Letter of Support for Senate Bill 212** – Higher Education – Nonresident Tuition – Exemption for Dependents of State or Local Public Safety Employees (Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act).

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As Cecil County Executive and a retired law enforcement officer, I write in strong **support** of Senate Bill 212, which appropriately recognizes the extraordinary sacrifices made by Maryland's public safety professionals and their families. When individuals dedicate their lives to protecting our communities, their families share in that commitment—and in the risks that accompany it. SB 212 honors that service by ensuring that, in the event of the ultimate sacrifice, a fallen hero's dependent is not burdened by higher education costs that could otherwise limit their future opportunities.

Throughout my career as a first responder, I served alongside men and women who put their lives on the line every day for our residents, including those who tragically lost their lives in the line of duty. While these public servants knowingly accept the risks inherent in their work, their families bear those risks as well. Providing in-state tuition benefits to the dependents of fallen public safety employees is a meaningful and tangible way for the State of Maryland to acknowledge that shared sacrifice.

SB 212 reflects Maryland's longstanding commitment to supporting public safety professionals and ensuring their families are not left behind. I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership on issues affecting Maryland's students, families, and public servants. I respectfully urge you to look **favorably** on SB 212.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "AS", is written over a light blue circular background.

Adam Streight
Cecil County Executive