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March 6, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
House of Delegates
Maryland General Assembly
Re: HB 1064, HB1449, HB 1685

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee:

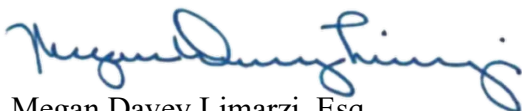
I am writing to provide information and general support for the establishment of a Maryland Office of the Inspector General.

As the Inspector General for Montgomery County since 2019, and a former Inspector General for the Maryland Department of Health, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact of independent oversight on government agencies and programs, as well as the benefits and value an OIG brings to taxpayers.

Independent OIGs help identify, deter, and detect fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. They present opportunities for improvements that enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of publicly funded programs and agencies and can help identify cost savings. The integrity of this work, and the rigorous professional standards applied to it, promotes good government. OIGs also provide a reliable resource for employees, residents, and stakeholders who seek trusted professionals willing to hear their concerns and take actions when appropriate. In FY25, the Montgomery County OIG issued 13 public reports, made 30 recommendations for improvement, reviewed \$287M in public spending, and identified over \$18M in questionable costs. The office also has a 69% closure rate for all recommendations issued since FY24 which shows the change the work has helped ignite.

An independent Maryland State IG would be an incredible enhancement to our state. If implemented well, it can be a wonderful complement to other established State offices, such as the Office of Legislative Audits; bolster accountability and transparency throughout State government; and increase the improvements sought by all Marylanders.

Sincerely,



Megan Davey Limarzi, Esq.
