

**MIKE MCKAY**  
*Legislative District 1*  
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

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Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Executive Nominations Committee

*Joint Committees*

Administrative, Executive,  
and Legislative Review  
Children, Youth, and Families  
Program Open Space and Agricultural  
Land Preservation

Senate Bill 745 – Police Training - Autism and Dementia (LEAD Act of 2026)

February 24, 2026

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 745, the Law Enforcement Autism and Dementia (LEAD) Act of 2026. This legislation takes an important step toward ensuring that Maryland's law enforcement officers are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to interact safely and effectively with individuals living with dementia and autism. By requiring the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to incorporate specialized training into both entrance-level and in-service programs, SB 745 addresses a critical gap in public safety. These provisions will help officers respond with sensitivity and competence in situations involving wandering, elopement, or missing persons, which are common and high-risk scenarios for these vulnerable populations.

The LEAD Act also emphasizes practical strategies such as sensory-aware approaches, reunification procedures, documentation, and interagency coordination. These measures not only protect individuals with dementia and autism but also enhance community trust and reduce the likelihood of tragic outcomes. Maryland has long been a leader in promoting inclusive and compassionate policing, and SB 745 continues that tradition by prioritizing training that reflects the diverse needs of our residents. I urge the committee to give this bill a favorable report and help ensure that our law enforcement officers are prepared to serve all Marylanders with dignity and care.

I thank you for your time and I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mike McKay'.

Senator Mike McKay  
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland  
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties