Robert G. Cassilly
Harford County Executive

Robert S. McCord
Director of Administration

February 23, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 660 – Public Safety – Law Enforcement – Response to Immigration Enforcement Actions

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members,

On behalf of the citizens of Harford County, I respectfully submit this letter in opposition to Senate Bill 660.

The safety of our residents remains the highest priority of local government. Law enforcement agencies must retain the discretion and operational flexibility necessary to respond immediately and appropriately to active crimes, emergencies, and threats within their communities. SB 660 creates a new statutory requirement for local law enforcement agencies to respond to and document reports of immigration enforcement activities. As drafted, the bill is unclear regarding the scope, timing, and prioritization of these responses, raising significant operational concerns.

Local dispatch centers and law enforcement agencies continuously triage calls for service based on urgency and public safety risk. Mandating a required response to reported immigration enforcement activities — regardless of whether a crime is occurring — risks diverting limited law enforcement resources away from active criminal investigations, emergency calls, and immediate threats to public safety. At a time when departments face staffing shortages and increasing service demands, the State should not impose additional response mandates that could interfere with the proper prioritization of law enforcement resources.

Moreover, SB 660 represents an inappropriate intrusion into local operational decision-making. Determining how officers are deployed, how calls are prioritized, and how resources are allocated is a core function of local law enforcement leadership. These decisions require real-time judgment based on community needs, staffing availability, and public safety risks. The State should not attempt to dictate how local agencies allocate personnel or respond to non-criminal activities occurring within their jurisdiction.

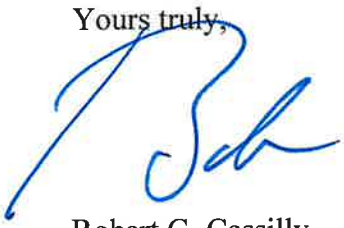
The bill also creates additional reporting and documentation requirements without clear guidance on implementation or funding. Any new mandates placed on local agencies must be precise, fully funded, and carefully structured to avoid unintended consequences that compromise public safety operations.

Harford County supports transparency and accountability in law enforcement, but such efforts must not come at the expense of emergency response readiness or local control over policing priorities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 660.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



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