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Deborah Casey, Ph.D.

February 2, 2026

Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland General Assembly

Dear Chair Smith and Honorable Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Wor-Wic Community College, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 285-Higher Education-Scholarships for Correctional Officers.

For more than three decades, Wor-Wic Community College has proudly served Maryland's public safety workforce through comprehensive education and training for both law enforcement and correctional professionals. Our Criminal Justice degree programs and the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy provide college-credit pathways, professional certifications, and workforce training that prepare individuals for meaningful careers while strengthening public safety throughout our region.

Senate Bill 285 represents an important and timely investment in correctional officers by expanding eligibility for the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship to include this essential segment of the public safety workforce. Correctional officers play a critical role in community safety, rehabilitation, and reentry, yet many face significant financial barriers when pursuing higher education. This legislation would help remove those barriers by providing tuition assistance to Maryland residents enrolled in degree programs that support careers in corrections, law enforcement, and community supervision.

Wor-Wic Community College currently offers a Corrections Certificate, along with related Criminal Justice programs, designed to enhance professional skills, promote career advancement, and improve retention within the corrections field. Passage of SB 285 would directly benefit our students who are working by making higher education more accessible and attainable. In turn, this investment will strengthen Maryland's correctional system by fostering a more educated, prepared, and resilient workforce.

We commend Senator Carozza for introducing this legislation and respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 285. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to Maryland's public safety professionals.

Sincerely,



Deborah Casey, Ph.D.

President

Wor-Wic Community College