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Bill Number: HB 987

Position: Favorable

On behalf of Maryland prosecutors and victims, MSAA writes in support of House Bill 987, which strengthens and stabilizes the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund. This legislation represents a meaningful investment in public safety and, most importantly, in the victims and communities most harmed by gun violence.

Prosecutors see firsthand the devastating and lasting impact that violent crime has on victims and their families. Evidence-based violence intervention and prevention programs reduce retaliation, prevent repeat victimization, and connect survivors with critical services at the earliest stages, often before individuals enter the criminal justice system. These programs complement law enforcement and prosecution efforts by addressing the root causes of violence and interrupting cycles that produce new victims.

By ensuring a dedicated annual appropriation of at least \$10 million beginning in fiscal year 2028, HB 987 provides the consistency and predictability necessary for local governments and nonprofit partners to plan, retain qualified staff, and deliver effective services.

HB 987's allocation framework appropriately directs resources to jurisdictions disproportionately affected by violence while maintaining flexibility to respond to emerging needs across the State.

For victims, this funding means safer neighborhoods, reduced exposure to violence, and greater access to trauma-informed support.

For these reasons, MSAA respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 987.