

**HB 987:** Public Safety - Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund - Alterations (Community Safety and Intervention Funding Act): Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE HB 987**.

While reducing violence is a critical goal, this bill is misguided and fiscally irresponsible. **It mandates significantly higher automatic funding commitments without corresponding revenue sources or offsets, adding pressure to an already strained state budget that must balance education, public safety, infrastructure, health care, and pension obligations.** Expanding the fund's scope and **prioritizing non-law-enforcement approaches diverts resources away from proven policing, prosecution, and incarceration strategies that directly remove violent offenders from our communities.**

**Many community-based violence interruption programs lack rigorous, independent evidence of long-term effectiveness in reducing homicides or shootings, especially compared to targeted law enforcement efforts.** Increasing state funding for these programs risks wasting taxpayer dollars on initiatives with inconsistent results while underfunding core public safety functions—such as adequate police staffing, detective units, and violent crime task forces—that are essential to holding offenders accountable and deterring future crime.

**Maryland residents, especially in areas affected by violence, deserve policies that prioritize immediate, effective public safety measures over unproven or less direct approaches. This bill shifts resources in the wrong direction and adds long-term budget obligations without demonstrated return on investment.**

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against HB 987**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns regarding this important public safety and fiscal responsibility issue.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals