

Testimony in Support of House Bill 449
Maryland General Assembly, 2026 Legislative Session

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **House Bill 449**.

As a county Sheriff, my primary responsibility is the safety of the communities we serve. HB 449 represents a **measured, common-sense approach to public safety**, one that balances individual rights with the practical realities faced daily by law-enforcement officers and the residents we protect. I have spoken with Chiefs in our state that have encountered parents begging them to talk with their minor child based on an alleged crime committed, and they had to tell those families, we cannot help. This is extremely frustrating and sends a dangerous message to our youth that they are allowed to act with impunity. This is rooted in the most basic common-sense approach to effectively enforcing laws in our state.

This legislation does not expand authority unnecessarily, nor does it impose unreasonable mandates. Instead, it closes gaps that currently undermine community safety and provides clarity and consistency that benefits law enforcement, victims, and the public alike. When laws are clear, narrowly tailored, and grounded in real-world experience, compliance improves and trust is strengthened. This is critical for youth accountability!

From an operational standpoint, HB 449 supports proactive prevention rather than reactive response. It recognizes that public safety is most effective when we address risks early, establish clear expectations, and give our law enforcement officers the appropriate tools to act responsibly and lawfully before harm occurs. That is not overreach, that is responsible governance.

Most importantly, this bill reflects what our residents expect: **reasonable laws that prioritize safety, accountability, and fairness**. The people we serve want safe neighborhoods, clear rules, and a system that functions logically. HB 449 advances all three.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Maryland General Assembly to support House Bill 449 and continue advancing policies that are rooted in common sense, public safety, and community well-being.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sheriff Matt Crisafulli

Worcester County Sheriff

