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TO: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair
Delegate Debra Davis, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Asian American and Pacific-Islander Caucus

DATE: 3/10/2026

RE: HB0794 - Public Safety - Maryland Police Training and Standards
Commission - Prohibition Against Certain Affiliation or Support by Police Officers

The AAPI Caucus supports HB0794 - Public Safety - Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission - Prohibition Against Certain Affiliation or Support by Police Officers

The Maryland Legislative Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus represents AAPI communities in the General Assembly and works to advance their legislative priorities. The Caucus respectfully supports HB0794 to strengthen standards for law enforcement professionalism and public trust.

HB0794 requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to prohibit police officers from affiliating with, supporting, or advocating for White supremacist groups, ideologies, or causes, or from participating in or actively promoting certain extremist groups. The bill establishes an important safeguard to help ensure that those entrusted with public safety are held to standards consistent with fairness, impartiality, and the rule of law.

For Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, this protection matters. AAPI communities, like many other communities of color, can be harmed by hate-based ideologies and by the fear and mistrust that arise when extremism is tolerated within institutions charged with protecting the public. Clear standards prohibiting affiliation with White supremacist or extremist groups help promote accountability, strengthen confidence in law enforcement, and support safer relationships between police and the diverse communities they serve.

HB0794 is a practical step toward greater integrity, accountability, and public confidence in policing. By establishing clear prohibitions on extremist affiliation and support, the bill will help reinforce professional standards and protect the legitimacy of Maryland's public safety institutions.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Asian-American and Pacific-Islander Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0794.