



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 20, 2024

RE: **SB 609 Criminal Law - Hate Crimes - Law Enforcement Officers**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 609**. This bill incorporates the definition of "law enforcement officer" contained in § 3-201 of the Criminal Law Article.

The intentional act of targeting and attacking individuals because they wear a uniform and carry out their official duties in pursuit of providing for public safety, should, as this legislation seeks, be included under the provisions of the hate crimes statutes. Such incidents have been on the rise, in some cases where officers have been singled out, targeted, and assassinated, simply because of who they are and what they do.

This legislation, just as intended for the other classes covered, would serve both as a deterrent and as a means of appropriately punishing those who would perpetrate such acts.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 609** and request a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.