

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear President Ferguson and Speaker Jones:

Last year, 348 people were murdered in the streets of Baltimore City, making 2019 the second deadliest year on record, and the fifth consecutive year with more than 300 murders in our state's largest city. Since before the start of the legislative session, I made it very clear that my highest priority was to hold violent criminals accountable and stop the shootings and the murders in Baltimore City. "If you do not consider any other legislation, and if you accomplish nothing else in the next 61 days, pass the Violent Firearm Offenders Act of 2020 ... pass the Witness Intimidation Prevention Act ... and the Judicial Transparency Act," I said in my State of the State address.

I expressed my strong willingness to consider other proposals, including some of those passed by the legislature, if they were included as part of a comprehensive crime package which included my proposals. Each of my proposals had the support of an overwhelming majority of Marylanders — and support for the proposals was strongest of all in Baltimore City, the community most directly impacted by the violence.

While the Senate approved the package by a wide margin, the House failed to act upon it, and thus failed to meaningfully address violent crime. Therefore, in accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, for the above reasons I have vetoed:

Senate Bill 907 – Public Safety – Crime Plan and Law Enforcement Councils (Maryland State Crime Plan)

Senate Bill 929 – Public Safety – Baltimore City – P.R.O.T.E.C.T. (Public Resources Organizing to End Crime Together Program)

House Bill 4/Senate Bill 208 – Public Safety – Rifles and Shotguns – Sales, Rentals, and Transfers

Senate Bill 314 – Juveniles Charged as Adults – Confidentiality of Records

House Bill 1336 – Criminal Procedure – Partial Expungement, Maryland Judiciary Case Search, and Expungement of Misdemeanor Conviction

House Bill 83 – Criminal Procedure – Charge of Possession of Marijuana – Removal From Case Search

Senate Bill 708 – Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund and Advisory Council – Alterations

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor