



## **GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES**

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**FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES**

March 3, 2020

Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Atterbeary, Members of the Committee  
House Judiciary Committee  
Room 101  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: House Bill 1083: Criminal Organizations – Penalties, Procedure, and Elements**

**POSITION: Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Committee,

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services ("Office") is providing this letter of support for House Bill 1083: Criminal Organizations – Penalties, Procedure, and Elements.

This legislation comes as a result of the recommendations from the Task Force to Study Maryland's Criminal Gang Statutes which met throughout 2019. The Task Force was staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. Additionally, the Office had one representative who served on the Task Force.

House Bill 1083 makes several changes to the existing criminal gang statutes. These changes include (1) replacing the language "criminal gang" with "criminal organization" within existing criminal law and criminal procedure articles, (2) expands the list of underlying crimes for criminal gang offenses, (3) specifies that assets divested from gangs as a result of local investigations and prosecutions must go to local jurisdictions to be used only on specified services and law enforcement-related efforts, and (4) requires the Attorney General, in consultation with the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, to develop a plan for a formal process for oversight of prosecutions under the Criminal Law Article.

These recommendations received a majority vote from the members of the Task Force. The Task Force met five times in different locations across the state during 2019, before voting on the final recommendations that are reflected in House Bill 1083.

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services urges a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

For all inquiries, please contact  
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