

SB0074 Cross Files as HB0088 Police Officers – Mental Health – Employee Assistance Programs

Stance: Support

Testimony: My name is Adiena C. Britt from the 45th Legislative District in Baltimore City. It is no secret that Law Enforcement agencies across the state have police misconduct issues that result in the harming of our residents. Not all of these cases stem from potential mental health issues within the ranks of Law Enforcement; however, I feel that many do. Every corporate employer I have worked for offered such a program to their employees. Realizing that work and home stressors can negatively affect a person and their conduct at work. Police officers should be no different.

They work in high stress, high anxiety situations on a daily basis. I believe there are things that these men and women deal with cannot simply be “unplugged” from once they are off duty. Nor can they detach from while on duty. This legislation would provide the proper channels for Law Enforcement officers to receive the proper care that they deserve. This should remove the stigma of Mental Health from society and remove obstacles for receiving assistance when it is truly needed.

This is an easy bill to be in support of. Please pass this bill through readers and allow it to be presented before the full Senate and House of Delegates to be voted upon and enacted into Law. Our Law Enforcement officers not only deserve, but require this as a benefit.

Thank you.