"Billy Boniface provides unwavering leadership and support for the Harford County Sheriff's Office. While others talk about defunding the police, Billy ensures every day that the men and women in law enforcement are a priority and always have the resources needed to keep Harford County's citizens safe. I have no doubt that he would continue to 'Back the Blue' as County Executive." ~ **Sheriff Jeff Gahler**

BILLY BONIFACE

is the ONLY candidate for Harford County Executive with a proven record of unwavering support for LAW ENFORCEMENT

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HARFORD COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S UNION

Incorporated 1989

PO Box 881, Bel Air, Maryland 21014

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Maryland House of Delegate Judiciary Committee

Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401

March 25, 2021

RE: Senate Bill 626 – Law Enforcement Officers – Use of Force

Dear Delegate Clippinger and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of over 300 members of the Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union, I respectfully ask that you NOT-SUPPORT Senate Bill 626.

Senate Bill 626, or similarly proposed bills, could be the most impactful and a deadly proposition for law enforcement. Every police encounter is determined by circumstances, which requires diverse considerations for de-escalation or escalation of force, based solely on a suspect's actions. Law enforcement officers train continuously to become proficient in these instinctual responses. I personally have been training law enforcement officers on both de-escalation techniques and use of force for over fifteen years. I can say, without hesitation that de-escalation is a preferred outcome, however in many cases, the use of force is absolutely necessary in order to bring a situation to a safe conclusion. One of the most ingrained axioms in law enforcement is that action is always faster than reaction. Therefore, seconds matter in these dangerous encounters and if law enforcement is mandated to toggle through an escalation continuum, it will most certainly cost the life of police officers and community members.

Moreover, requiring law enforcement to implement unrealistic de-escalation techniques, such as waiting out the suspect, giving them space and allowing them to freely move about will cause police to pause during these unpredictable circumstances, which can and most certainly will result in grave danger for community members and officers.

Any examples cited of mistakes law enforcement have made in the past, related to use of force, are microscopic compared to the number of actual police encounters that occur. Furthermore, those who engage in gross excessive use of force are not, and should not, be protected from personal and professional accountability.

Therefore, on behalf of the members of the Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union, I am requesting the members of the Judicial Committee to vote UN-FAVORABLY in support of Senate Bill 626.

Lawyer & Senator Bob Cassilly voted in support of police reform!

Senate Bill 626 (2021) would have:

- Authorized a state commission to fire officers for not following specified tactics,
- Required officers to be trained on "sensitivity to cultural and gender diversity,"
- Subjected officers who violate the new law to up to 10 years in prison.

This bill was **opposed** by the Harford County Deputy Sheriff's Union.

Bob Cassilly was the ONLY Harford County Senator that voted FOR this bill.

Republican Billy Boniface disagrees and feels that politicians should not be telling law enforcement how to do their jobs.

✓ Vote for Billy on July 19. He will continue to **Back the Blue** as our next Harford County Executive!

Friends of Billy Boniface
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