



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Room 101, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 20, 2020

Dear Chair Smith and Chair Clippinger,

Out-of-control violent crime, shootings, and murders are destroying Baltimore City. Just since the opening day of the 2020 legislative session 104 more people have been shot and 39 people have been killed on the streets of Baltimore.

This is an urgent crisis, and we have an obligation to do something about it right now. There can be no more excuses and no more delays—the General Assembly must take action on our violent crime legislation.

The Administration has committed unprecedented resources to support Baltimore City's crime fight. We have invested more than \$1 billion in public safety initiatives and launched initiatives like the Enhanced Visibility Patrol, joint federal, state, and local strikeforce, and serving high priority warrants. But none of these efforts will be successful if we can't keep violent offenders off the streets and illegal guns out of our communities. Yet, as the Maryland House and Senate reach the second month of the 2020 session, no action has been taken on any of the Administration's legislation to increase accountability for violent offenders terrorizing our communities.

We urge you to take action now. We are attaching amendments to make the bills **Emergency Legislation** so that it can be acted on immediately, signed immediately, and take effect immediately to address this crisis.

I urge your respective committees to pass these bills and get them to my desk so we can begin to stop the killings.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan Jr.
Governor

Enclosed: Amendments to HB 356/SB 273; HB 357/SB 271; HB 355/SB 272