



June 9, 2017

The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

**Re: City Council Bill 17-0067 – Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation- State's Attorney- \$1,190,562**

Dear President and City Council Members:

I fully support City Council Bill 17-0067, which provides a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$1,190,562 to the State's Attorney's Office (SAO).

In 2016, the SAO received a record \$2.4 M grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control Prevention (GOCCP) to serve victims and witnesses of crime in Baltimore City. This two-year grant is funded through the federal Crime Victims Fund and provides \$1,190,462 annually in FY2017 and FY2018. These funds support the following:

- 11 new positions in the SAO including five victim/witness advocates, two bilingual victim/witness advocates, two homicide witness coordinators, one VOCA project manager and one investigator
- 5 existing positions in the SAO including a victim/witness advocate for the Juvenile Division and staff for the Family Bereavement Center
- Access to the Language Line, a phone-based interpretation service, for all SAO staff
- Translation of the SAO's website into Spanish
- Parking for victims and witnesses of crime visiting the Victim/Witness Waiting Rooms located in the Mitchell Courthouse and the Juvenile Justice Center
- Victim-friendly renovations to the Victim/Witness Waiting Room in the Mitchell Courthouse
- Development and implementation of a victim/witness services database management system to track and report state and federally-mandated statistics
- Training for all staff in the SAO's Victim/Witness Unit

The Finance Department requires a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation due to the large and unexpected nature of this grant award. Previously, Congress capped annual deductions from the federal Crime Victims Fund due to large fluctuations in annual deposits. These caps limited the amount of funds distributed to state coordinating offices, such as GOCCP, and thus the amount distributed to local agencies, such as the SAO. Congress' limits on annual deductions caused the Fund's balance to grow to more than \$10 B by 2015. As a result, Congress more than doubled the cap on deductions in FY2015 significantly increasing the amount available to state coordinating offices for distribution to local agencies.

In FY2016, due to the increase in the federal cap on deductions, GOCCP allowed agencies to request a 20% increase in grant funding while the agency planned how to best manage the increase in funds. As a result, the SAO's grant appropriation increased from \$226,504 in FY2015 to \$271,803 in FY2016. In FY2017, GOCCP removed all monetary limitations on applications enabling the SAO to apply for and receive \$1.19 M each in FY2017 and FY2018.

STATE'S ATTORNEY  
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By the time the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was released by GOCCP for FY2017 lifting all monetary limitations on applications, the SAO's FY2017 General Fund budget had already been prepared and submitted. The SAO was thus unable to allocate funds accordingly to accommodate for the more than 430% increase in this particular grant. Thus, a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation is now requested for the SAO to accept this grant award.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Marilyn J. Mosby".

Marilyn J. Mosby  
State's Attorney for Baltimore City