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**Maryland Defenders Union**

**Local 423, AFSCME Council 3**

**marylanddefendersunion@gmail.com**

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| **Marci Tarrant Johnson**, *President* **Kelli Cover**, *Attorney Board Member* | |
| **Kalia Woods**, *Non-Attorney Vice-President*  **Edie Fortuna**, *Attorney Vice-President*  **Sally Larsen**, *Recording Secretary*  **Cheryl Hughes-Redd**, *Secretary-Treasurer* | **Elise Desiderio**, *Attorney Board Member*  **Alexis Rossetti**, *Attorney Board Member*  **Afrika Kwanna**, *Non-Attorney Board Member*  **Casi O’Neill**, *Non-Attorney Board Member*  **Naja Brown,** *Non-Attorney Board Member*  **Andrew Northrup,** *Trustee* |
|  |  |

February \_\_\_\_, 2024

**To: Delegate Jazz Lewis, Chairman**

**Delegate Julian Ivey, Co-Chairman**

**Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee**

**RE: House of Delegates, OPD Budget Hearing Testimony**

**Hearing**: **February 14, 2024**

Dear Chairman Lewis, Vice Chairman Ivey, and members of the committee:

Greetings! My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I am submitting this written testimony as a member of the Maryland Defenders Union, AFSCME Local 423. I have worked as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the Office of the Public Defender in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(office)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years.

(Discuss how underfunding affects you directly. This can be about pay, short-staffing, workload, or anything else that you feel is important to let them know. Do your best to relate it to your personal life or potential harm to the people we serve)

(End your testimony with an ask for a significant increase in budget for OPD to rectify years of underfunding)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Job, office, etc.