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**FY 2024 OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Fagan Harris, Chief of Staff

House Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee

Delegate Tony Bridges, Chair

Delegate Julian Ivey, Vice Chair

February 1, 2023

Senate Education, Business and Administration Subcommittee

Senator Nancy J. King, Chair

February 3, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before your Subcommittee as you review the proposed budget for the Office of the Governor.

I would like to thank our assigned analyst, Mr. Ryan Green, for his thorough analysis. I am pleased to note that he has concluded that we have proposed a responsible spending plan for fiscal year 2024.

Proposed Deficiency

Page 2. The Governor's Office should describe the planned functions of the new positions.

The proposed budget adds 17 new positions to the Office of the Governor. These positions are distributed across several teams within the Governor's Office and will provide much-needed capacity to carry out the work of the Administration.

Three positions in the Chief of Staff's Office: Governor Moore has outlined an ambitious agenda for his first term, and as Chief of Staff it is my responsibility to ensure that our team is staffed and equipped to execute on his vision. That begins in my office, where we propose adding a special assistant, a senior advisor, and an operations liaison.

Six positions assigned to the Deputy Chiefs of Staff: In the previous budget, each of the Deputy Chiefs of Staff was supported by only one Policy Advisor. We believe that this is insufficient for Deputy Chiefs who each oversee several large, complex agencies. Six new Policy Advisors will ensure that the Deputies are able to effectively manage these critical portfolios.

Two positions in the Governor's Front Office: Governor Moore has made it clear that he intends to be an active Governor. He will travel across Maryland regularly and is excited to meet and engage with residents in every part of the state. This will require a team of dedicated advance staff to coordinate trips, organize events, and support the Governor while he is on the road. Our proposal includes two new advance roles to make this travel possible.

Two positions in the Communications Office: The previous staffing allocation to the Communications Office does not include any dedicated speechwriters. Our proposal adds senior and junior speechwriting roles to fill this critical function.

One position in the Federal Office: Governor Moore's Administration will work closely with our partners in Maryland's Congressional delegation and in the Biden Administration. Adding an executive assistant position to this office will provide additional capacity as our team works to build partnerships, pursue federal grant opportunities, and manage the important work of the Federal Office.

One position in the First Lady's Office: First Lady Moore will have an active, engaged role in this administration, including frequent travel and public engagement events. It is important that her office has adequate staff to carry out these responsibilities. Our proposal adds an executive assistant position to the First Lady's Office to provide administrative and logistical support.

Two positions in the Lieutenant Governor's Office: Lt. Governor Miller will play a leading role on a number of key issues, from mental and behavioral health to transportation. Our proposal includes two special assistant positions that will provide policy expertise and project management support for the Lt. Governor's Office.

Operating Budget Recommended Actions

1. Concur with the Governor's allowance.

The Office of the Governor respectfully agrees with this recommended action.

Thank you, I am open to any questions you or your colleagues may have in response to the analysis.