

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

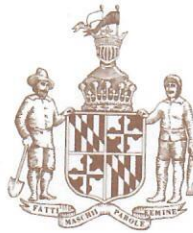
ASSISTANT DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Health and Human Services Subcommittee

Pensions Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill SB 519

Bill Title: Public Health – Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities – Safety Plan

Hearing Date: February 18, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Chair: Delores G. Kelley, Vice Chair: Brian J. Feldman

I write to you today in **support** of Senate Bill SB 519. This bill is important because it will require that in order for behavioral health programs to receive licensing, they must first create and implement a safety plan in order to ensure the safety of the individuals served at the facility. This safety plan will also ensure the safety of the community residents surrounding the behavioral health program.

The purpose of this bill is to require that the regulations adopted by the Behavioral Health Administration under certain provisions of law governing requirements for the licensure of behavioral health programs include a requirement that a behavioral health program is to establish and implement a safety plan in order to ensure the safety of the individuals served by the health facility as well as the residents who live near the facility.

In efforts to ensure the safety and well being of behavioral health program participants and community residents, we hope that you will move for a **favorable** report of Senate Bill 519.

Respectfully,

Cory V. McCray
State Senator



Zeke Cohen

Councilmember
First District

513 City Hall • Baltimore, MD 21202 • 410-396-4821 • ZEKE.COHEN@BALTIMORECITY.GOV

February 14, 2020

Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing
11 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Support of Senate Bill 519: Public Health – Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities
– Safety Plan

Chair Delores G.Kelley and Vice-Chair Brian J. Feldman,

I write to you today in support of Senate Bill 519. This bill is important because it will require that in order for behavioral health programs to receive licensing, they must first create and implement a safety plan in order to ensure the safety of the individuals served at the facility. This safety plan will also ensure the safety of the community residents surrounding the behavioral health program.

The purpose of this bill is to require that the regulations adopted by the Behavioral Health Administration under certain provisions of law governing requirements for the licensure of behavioral health programs include a requirement that a behavioral health program is to establish and implement a safety plan in order to ensure the safety of the individuals served by the health facility as well as the residents who live near the facility.

In efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of behavioral health program participants and community residents, we hope that you will move for a favorable report of Senate Bill 519.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zeke Cohen".

Councilmember Zeke Cohen

CHAIR: EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL



MARY PAT CLARKE
14th District

City Hall, Room 550
100 N. Holliday St.
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marypat.clarke@baltimorecity.gov

February 16, 2020

Chairwoman Delores Kelley, Vice Chairman Brian Feldman and Members
Finance Committee
Maryland State Senate
3 East Miller Senate Building, 11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: Support for Senate Bills 519, 520, 521, 522, lead sponsor Senator Cory McCray

Distinguished Chairwoman Kelley, Vice Chairman Feldman, and Members, Finance Committee: Senator Cory McCray and I represent portions of the same neighborhood and understand that, despite a crucial public need for services, various State health and social service programs compromise their missions by cropping-up without advance notice to surrounding neighbors, a frequent and disrespectful occurrence in our most disadvantaged communities.

Many of such programs actually “victimize” the very persons they are designed to help through inadequate attention and lack of professional oversight. Meanwhile, for lack of notice and discussion, programs are frequently regarded as intrusions and disruptions of neighborhood security.

These four bills address specific improvements which contribute to better treatments for patients and more respectful partnerships with affected neighbors. I urge your support and thank you for your consideration.

Senate Bill 0519. Public Health–Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities – Safety Plan

Bill 519 prohibits licensure until a proposed facility provides a safety plan for its patients and for “the community surrounding the behavioral health program.” This ensures that the community has the chance to negotiate on behalf of itself and on behalf of patients yet to be identified, a process that rarely occurs in my experience. “Earning” licensure in such circumstances is the ideal safeguard for achieving the safety and respect due all parties.

Vote "Yes" on Senate Bill 519

Bill Title: Public Health – Behavioral Health Programs and Healthcare Facilities – Safety Plan

Hearing Date: February 18, 2020 at 1 p.m.

Chair: Delores G. Kelly, Vice Chair: Brian J. Feldman

Dr. Angela Jancius
3022 Christopher Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21214
wniapresident@gmail.com

Honorable Representatives,

I am sending written testimony in support of Senate Bill SB 519. I am the President of the Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association (WNIA). I have a doctorate in Social Anthropology, and am writing today as a community advocate and resident of Baltimore City.

SB Bill 519 would require behavioral health programs to have a safety plan in place before a license to operate is granted (both for individuals served by the facility, and for residents in the surrounding community). There are many behavioral health programs in Northeast Baltimore, and residents recognize the importance of facilities that are well-run, and have oversight and planning. Individuals overcoming substance abuse and mental health problems are vulnerable. They may try and fail, several times, in their process of receiving treatment. A behavioral health facility that accepts the responsibility of helping an individual should also feel responsible for their safety, and the safety of the community. If an individual abandons treatment, and is in need of assistance, but does not have a permanent residence in the area, how should the community respond? How would a facility deal with populations that might take advantage of the individuals they serve? And what measures have they set in place to deal with safety issues in the community that arise from their facility? I thank you for supporting Senate Bill SB 519. Safety plans are good for everyone, and they hold behavioral health facilities accountable.

Sincerely,



Angela Jancius, Ph.D.

President, Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association (WNIA)



Councilwoman Danielle McCray
Second District

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VICE-CHAIR
TAXATION, FINANCE & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
LABOR COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chairwoman Delores Kelley, Vice Chairman Brian Feldman, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in support of Senate Bill 519-BHP - Safety Plan. The purpose of this bill is to require that the regulations adopted by the behavioral health administration under the certain provisions of law governing requirements for the licensure of behavioral health programs, include a requirement that a behavioral health program is to establish and implement a safety plan in order to ensure the safety of the individuals served by the health facility as well as the residents who live near the facility.

This bill ensures that there is a contingency plan in the event of an emergency, and provides a procedure for participants and management to follow to avoid additional accidents from occurring. This safety plan will also ensure the safety of the community residents surrounding the behavioral health program.

In efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of Behavioral Health Program participants and community residents, I support a favorable report of Senate Bill 519.

Sincerely,

Danielle McCray

Baltimore City Councilwoman - 2nd District



Chairman, Budget & Appropriations Committee
Chairman, Judiciary & Legislative Investigations Committee
Chairman, Biennial Audits Oversight Commission
Chairman, Stormwater Remediation Oversight Committee



City Hall, Room 527
100 N Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Land Use & Transportation Committee
Taxation, Finance, & Economic Development Committee

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Eric T. Costello

Baltimore City Council, 11th District

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Senator Delores G. Kelley
The Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman

RE: Senate Bill 519

I write to you today in support of Senate Bill SB 519. This bill is important because it will require that in order for behavioral health programs to receive licensing, they must first create and implement a safety plan in order to ensure the safety of the individuals served at the facility. This safety plan will also ensure the safety of the community residents surrounding the behavioral health program.

The purpose of this bill is to require that the regulations adopted by the Behavioral Health Administration under certain provisions of law governing requirements for the licensure of behavioral health programs include a requirement that a behavioral health program is to establish and implement a safety plan in order to ensure the safety of the individuals served by the health facility as well as the residents who live near the facility.

In efforts to ensure the safety and well being of behavioral health program participants and community residents, we hope that you will move for a favorable report of Senate Bill 519.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me directly at eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov or 410-396-4816.

Sincerely,

Eric. T. Costello
Baltimore City Council, 11th District



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
KRISTERFER BURNETT, 8th District

Committees: Executive Appointments, Housing and Urban Affairs,
Public Safety, Education and Youth

Room 521, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Office: 410-396-4818
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BILL NO: Senate Bill 0519
TITLE: Public Health - Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care
Facilities - Safety Plan
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: SUPPORT

This bill requires that as part of the licensure plan a behavioral health program seeking licensure have a safety plan for its residents and those in the surrounding community.

The safety of both the individuals served and the community at large is paramount to a safe and successful behavioral health program. I am fully in support of this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Burnett".

Kristerfer Burnett
City Councilmen District 8
Baltimore City



Brandon M. Scott
President
Baltimore City Council

100 Holliday Street, Suite 400 · Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-396-4804 · Fax: 410-539-0647
e-mail: councilpresident@baltimorecity.gov

SB 519

February 18, 2020

TO: The Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: The Honorable Brandon M. Scott, President of the Baltimore City Council

RE: SENATE BILL 519 – Public Health – Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities – Safety Plan

POSITION: SUPPORT

To Chair Kelley,

I write to you in **support** of Senate Bill 519. I want to ensure that everyone that accesses needed behavioral health programs is able to do so in a safe and secure facility. That is why this bill, which ensures that behavioral health programs have a safety plan in order to receive licensing, is important for the well-being of our residents and communities. This bill takes an important proactive step to keep participants and surrounding communities safe by having clear protocols in place for how to handle emergencies. Ensuring patients' safety is very important to me, and I believe that SB 519 is an effective step to prioritize their safety.

In efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of behavioral health program clients and community residents, I hope that you will move for a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 519.

Sincerely,

Brandon M. Scott
President, Baltimore City Council