

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

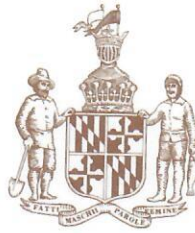
ASSISTANT DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Health and Human Services Subcommittee

Pensions Subcommittee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 221
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800-492-7122 Ext. 3165
Cory.Mccray@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill SB520

Bill Title: Behavioral Health Programs – Opioid Treatment Services – Limitation on Licenses

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 SB520. This bill will help to ensure that the number of Behavioral Health Programs are effectively distributed across the State of Maryland.

According to the Maryland Department of Health, in the first quarter of 2019 there were 87 Behavioral Health programs in the State of Maryland and 35 of those were located in the City of Baltimore. This means that roughly forty percent of the programs were concentrated in a single jurisdiction, which is concerning.

The purpose of this bill is to prevent the Behavioral Health Administration from approving more than five licenses in each county for Behavioral Health programs that provide opioid treatment services for every 100,000 individuals who reside in that county. However, this bill will allow the administration to approve licenses above the established limit with the authorization of legislation passed by the General Assembly.

In efforts to ensure the most effective placements of Behavioral Health programs across the state of Maryland, we hope that you will move for a **favorable** report of Senate Bill 520.

Respectfully,

Cory V. McCray
State Senator

Vote "Yes" on Senate Bill 520

Bill Title: Behavioral Health Programs – Opioid Treatment Services – Limitation on Licenses

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 520. 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, in the 45th District.

We need an even dispersal of opioid treatment services that is rationally balanced to address community needs. Senate Bill 520 would help to achieve that goal. In our communities of northeast Baltimore, we are experiencing a rapid influx of opioid treatment services, where supply outweighs demand. In the last year alone, several new substance abuse treatment centers have opened within a one-mile radius, along our neighborhood's portion of the Harford Road commercial corridor. Residents have a great deal of empathy for individuals fighting addiction. This is a crisis that affects most households, and families. However, surplus supply of treatment services within close proximity can have a "clustering" effect, that is ineffective in dealing with the opioid crisis. We are observing that this can alter local demographics, attract criminal activity, and have an overall negative social and economic impact. Communities need balance. A surplus of opioid treatment services, clustered into urban areas, can be both ineffective and damaging. Residents of northeast Baltimore City thank you for voting in favor of Senate Bill 520, which will improve a more balanced dispersal of opioid treatment services throughout the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,



Angela Jancius, Ph.D.

President, Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association (WNIA)

Vote "Yes" on Senate Bill 520

Bill Title: SB 0520 –Behavioral Health Programs - Opioid Treatment Services - Limitation on Licenses

Hearing Date: February 18, 2020 (1:00 PM)

Finance Committee

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

Daniel Sturm, M.A.
3022 Christopher Ave
Baltimore, MD 21214
sturmstories@gmail.com

February 17, 2020

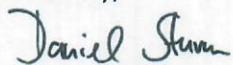
Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing to support Senate Bill SB 520 that is co-sponsored by State Senator Cory McCray. I have owned a home in the neighborhood of Westfield, located in Northeast Baltimore, since 2008. I am writing as an engaged neighbor and concerned citizen, who has compassion with people suffering from substance abuse and who cares about prudent city planning.

We need an even dispersal of opioid treatment centers that is rationally balanced to address community needs. Senate Bill 520 will help ensure that the number of Behavioral Health Programs are more evenly distributed among the State of Maryland. During the last year, alone, multiple new substance abuse treatment centers have opened within a 0.7 mile radius, along our neighborhood's portion of the Harford Road commercial corridor, between White Ave. and Northern Parkway.

I understand the need for treatment and compassionate services within a city that battles an opioid crisis. However, surplus supply of treatment services within close proximity can have a clustering effect that is ineffective in dealing with this crisis. Moreover, the clustering effect can significantly alter local demographics, attract criminal activity, and have an overall negative socio-economic impact. Ideally, we would have care that is more equally distributed, so that communities are directly served, so that people who need help don't need to travel, and so that some communities do not end up with clusters of behavioral health treatment that impact a social and economic balance. I thank you for voting in favor of Senate Bill SB 520, which will improve a more balanced dispersal of opioid treatment services throughout Maryland.

Sincerely,



Daniel Sturm, M.A.
3022 Christopher Ave
Baltimore, MD 21214

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

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



Eric T. Costello

Baltimore City Council, 11th District

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

(o) 410-396-4816

(m) 443-813-1457

(e) eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov

February 18, 2020

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

RE: Senate Bill 520

I write to you today in support of Senate Bill SB520. This bill will help to ensure that the number of Behavioral Health Programs are effectively distributed across the State of Maryland.

According to the Maryland Department of Health, in the first quarter of 2019 there were 87 Behavioral Health programs in the State of Maryland and 35 of those were located in the City of Baltimore. This means that roughly forty percent of the programs were concentrated in a single jurisdiction, which is concerning.

The purpose of this bill is to prevent the Behavioral Health Administration from approving more than five licenses in each county for Behavioral Health programs that provide opioid treatment services for every 100,000 individuals who reside in that county. However, this bill will allow the administration to approve licenses above the established limit with the authorization of legislation passed by the General Assembly.

In efforts to ensure the most effective placements of Behavioral Health programs across the state of Maryland, we hope that you will move for a favorable report of Senate Bill 520.

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



Councilwoman Danielle McCray
Second District

ROOM 525, CITY HALL
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202
TELEPHONE: 410-396-4808
danielle.mccray@baltimorecity.gov

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 520 Behavioral Health Programs Opioid Treatment Services - Limitation on Licenses. This bill will ensure that the number of Behavioral Health Programs are effectively distributed across the State of Maryland.

The purpose of this bill is to prevent the Behavioral Health Administration from approving more than five licenses in each county for Behavioral Health programs that provide opioid treatment services for every 100,000 individuals who reside in that county. However, this bill will allow the administration to approve licenses above the established limit with the authorization of legislation passed by the General Assembly.

According to the Maryland Department of Health, in the first quarter of 2019, there were more than 80 Behavioral Health programs in the State of Maryland and 35 of those were located in the City of Baltimore. This means that roughly forty percent of the programs were concentrated in a single jurisdiction, which is concerning.

In efforts to ensure the most effective placements of Behavioral Health programs across the state of Maryland, I support a favorable report of Senate Bill 520.

Sincerely,

Danielle McCray

Baltimore City Councilwoman - 2nd District



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Recycled Paper



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
Fax: 410-396-4828

BILL NO: Senate Bill 0520
TITLE: Behavioral Health Programs - Opioid Treatment Services -
Limitation on Licenses
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: SUPPORT

This bill prohibits more than five behavioral health programs focused on opioid treatment services per county. Any additional licenses would require a legislative act.

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

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

Kristerfer Burnett
City Councilmen District 8
Baltimore City



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 520: Behavioral Health Programs – Opioid Treatment Services – Limitation on Licenses

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

I write to you today in **support** of Senate Bill 520. This bill will help to ensure that the number of Behavioral Health Programs are effectively distributed across the State of Maryland.

According to the Maryland Department of Health, in the first quarter of 2019 there were 87 Behavioral Health programs in the State of Maryland and 35 of those were located in the City of Baltimore. This means that roughly forty percent of the programs were concentrated in a single jurisdiction, which is concerning.

The purpose of this bill is to prevent the Behavioral Health Administration from approving more than five licenses in each county for Behavioral Health programs that provide opioid treatment services for every 100,000 individuals who reside in that county. However, this bill will allow the administration to approve licenses above the established limit with the authorization of legislation passed by the General Assembly.

In efforts to ensure the most effective placements of Behavioral Health programs across the state of Maryland, we hope that you will move for a **favorable** report of Senate Bill 520.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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.
Baltimore, Md 21202

410-396-4814

410-545-7585 fax

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.