



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter  
In Favor of SB3 - Facilities - Disabilities, Juveniles, Behavioral Health,  
and Health Care - Children and Community Relations Plans  
Before the House Health and Government Operations Committee  
On March 30, 2022**

**Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Peña-Melnyk, and Esteemed Members  
of the Committee:**

**Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 3. This bill is an important measure to protect some of the most vulnerable members of our community: children. In 2021, both houses unanimously passed Senate Bill 96, requiring all “behavioral health program[s] establish and implement a safety plan for the safety of the individuals served.” This bill recognized that having a detailed and documented proactive security strategy was essential to ensuring the well-being of neighbors and the individuals being served.**

**Senate Bill 3 ensures that those plans will be up-to-date, appropriate, and regularly enhanced to keep up with best practices. It also expands the provision to residential centers and group homes that serve juveniles and persons with disabilities.**

**My intention with this bill is to improve the relationship between neighborhood and facility residents. We know that the most effective path to rehabilitation is reintegration. This bill will help erase the stigma attached to child offenders and work to re-establish comradery in our communities to the benefit of all people.**



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**By requiring organizations serving vulnerable individuals to reevaluate their safety protocols at least every five years, this bill mirrors standards maintained by the federal government. Senate Bill 3 will protect the safety of vulnerable individuals without imposing excessive or unreasonable administrative demands on the centers providing services.**

**Earlier this session, Delegate Rosenberg introduced the cross-file of this bill, House Bill 297. The two differences between the two pieces of legislation are their titles and a specification particular to the Senate bill regarding fire safety. After talks with advocates, I have proposed striking page 3, lines 27, and 28 as the requirement is analogous to existing practices and thus redundant. Further, the revised title of “Children and Community Relations Plans” emphasizes the intention of this bill: to enhance affinities within our neighborhoods in the best interest of minors.**

**Several neighborhood leaders have signed a letter expressing their emphatic support of this bill. With their urging in mind, I ask this committee to give a favorable report on Senate Bill 3. Thank you.**

**Respectfully,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill P. Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jill P. Carter**