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**BILL NO.:**            **SB 298**

**TITLE:**              Criminal Law - Threat Against Public Health Official or  
Hospital Staff Member

**SPONSOR:**         Senator Young

**COMMITTEE:**      Judicial Proceedings

**POSITION:**        **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**              February 8, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 298 – Criminal Law – Threat Against Public Health Official or Hospital Staff Member. This legislation would protect healthcare workers by prohibiting threats against public health officials.

Over the past two years, health care workers have tirelessly fought the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been made even more challenging by surges in cases due to the Delta variant, and current surges due to the Omicron variant requiring health care staff to work overtime. In addition to this, there have been a rise in threats toward those working in the healthcare system. Public health officials on the front lines deserve to work in a secure and stable environment that encourages optimal performance and preserves their mental and physical health.

Senate Bill 298 would protect public health workers in the state from the rising threats against them. These threats include those that intentionally intimidate, interfere with, or impede staff from performing their duties. Violators of this act would be charged with a misdemeanor, a potential 90 day imprisonment and a fine up to \$500. This bill is crucial for the protection of some of Maryland’s most essential workers.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 298. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).