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BILL NO.: HB 271

TITLE: 9-8-8 Trust Fund – Funding

SPONSOR: Delegate Kelly

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

POSITION: SUPPORT

DATE: February 3, 2023

Baltimore County SUPPORTS House Bill 271 – 9-8-8 Trust Fund – Funding. This legislation would require the Governor to include an appropriation for maintaining 9-8-8 as a universal telephone number for suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline.

The 9-8-8 Trust Fund was created to direct funding to the 9-8-8 mental health and suicide prevention hotline. This hotline allows for those struggling with mental health to reach out and speak directly with mental health professionals during a time of crisis. This not only helps those in need, but decreases the burden on police departments by allowing for calls related to mental health to be diverted.

Baltimore County strongly supports resources for treating residents in crisis using trained mental health professionals capable of providing targeted care. This legislation allows local law enforcement to continue to focus efforts where needed without leaving individuals seeking treatment behind.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 271. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.