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*Legislative District 41*  
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

*Chair*

Health Occupations and  
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

*House Chair*

Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review



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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg  
Before the Health and Government Operations Committee  
In Support of

**House Bill 1359**

**Facilities - Disabilities and Juveniles - Community Relations Plans**

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

Throughout the year, I meet with the presidents and residents of the various residential communities in the 41<sup>st</sup> District. We address wide-ranging issues, from schools and green space; to health care, especially mental health; and to the business community and redevelopment of our older communities. The neighborhoods in my district are engaged and committed to improving their quality of life.

Over the years, a number of residents have expressed concerns about services being offered to community members who live in residential centers such as private homes and juvenile detention centers. There are issues surrounding these residential facilities that have been left unaddressed, such as parking, traffic, complaints, construction, and activities around the property.

These facilities are often unaware of, or may even neglect, the impact of these issues on their neighbors. The people living in every community need their concerns to be addressed in a structured and ongoing way, and they have the right to hold these establishments accountable to meet commonly understood standards of neighborliness. Unfortunately, many of the residents I've spoken with cannot afford the time and resources needed to fight for these rights, and they should not have to.

House Bill 1359 would require certain State residential centers, private group homes, and the Department of Juvenile Services to establish, implement, and review community relations plans. These plans must create procedures that allow these centers to provide updates regarding community issues to residents and neighbors. Enhancing communication among providers and residents would lead to community building. That is the focus of this bill.

These community organizations and centers provide vital services to eligible individuals. It is just as vital that they consider the impact they have on their neighbors. HB 1359 would allow us to take a necessary baseline step towards ensuring that the organizations and centers that provide community services plan for and consider the impact they have on the community they are located in and most importantly that these plans and processes are communicated regularly to neighbors.

For all these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE report for HB 1359.

March 1, 2024