



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB0004**

February 1, 2024

**TO:** Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** Senate Bill 4 – Criminal Procedure - Victims' Rights - Notification of Release from Confinement (Jaycee Webster Victims' Rights Act)

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 4.

SB 4 provides victims and witnesses with notification when a defendant or child respondent is released from confinement, escaped, recaptured, or transferred to a different confinement unit. The notification is to include the name and contact information for the Victim Services employee from the prosecuting State's Attorney Office. This bill also protects victims and witnesses from disclosure of their personal information, including telephone number and home address, to defendants.

Victims have a right to be made aware of changes to the status of an offender that can impact them in any way. Prior cases of revictimization by an offender who sought out their victim upon release show that failing to notify victims of a defendant's release could put the victim's safety at risk. This includes the late Mary Byron whose untimely passing led to the creation of the Victim Notification and Information System (VINE)<sup>i</sup>.

Victims and witnesses of crime, harmed by abuse, attacks, and/or violence, have a right to be informed about changes to an offender's status. This commonsense measure, which also protects the privacy of survivors, considers that victim and witness safety is prioritized.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 4.

---

<sup>i</sup> <https://corrections.ky.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/Vine-History.aspx>