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Legislative District 12
Baltimore and Howard Counties

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness

Chair
Joint Committee on Fair Practices and State Personnel Oversight

Chair
Howard County Senate Delegation

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Support: SB 184
University of Maryland, Baltimore – Study on the Health Effects of Air Traffic Noise

Issue:

- NextGen, the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) effort to modernize air transportation, was implemented at BWI in 2015 as part of the DC Metroplex Project
- NextGen flight paths have increased density and lower altitudes
- Noise complaints from communities under concentrated flight paths have drastically increased since DC Metroplex Project initiation - from 300 per year in 2012 to 1000 per day in 2019
- Exposure to high levels of air traffic noise has been associated with harmful health effects including sleep disturbance, high blood pressure, heart disease, anxiety, and learning difficulties in children
- Maryland has made significant efforts to request that the FAA alter flight paths to remedy this issue but the response from the FAA has been slow

What SB 184 does:

- Commissions a study by the University of Maryland-Baltimore about the health effects of air traffic noise on communities near BWI, including the costs of these effects compared with the cost savings generated by NextGen
- Budget requested for study: $130,000 in FY 2022

How SB 184 could help:

- A prior similar study conducted about health effects of an altered flight path from New York's LaGuardia Airport helped to convince the FAA to monitor and limit the use of the new flight path

Budget Justification

Personnel

Zafar Zafari, M.Sc., PhD, **Principal Investigator**, is an Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and will dedicate 35% effort throughout the project. Role: Dr. Zafari will be responsible for day-to-day direct supervision of the project, provision of technical and modeling advice, high-level data analyses and simulation modeling/coding, writing the manuscript for a peer-reviewed publication, and presenting at conferences.

GRA (PhD student), TBD. The GRA will work under direct supervision of, and reports to, Dr. Zafari. He/she will dedicate 100% effort throughout the project. Role: The GRA will be responsible for the literature review and evidence synthesis, data collection and analyses, and writing of the manuscript.

Other Operating Expenses

Professional Meeting: $0 is being requested to cover the cost of attending professional meetings and conferences to explore and share research outcomes and concepts.

Software Costs: $0 is being requested to cover the cost of purchasing simulation modeling software platforms.

Data: $0 is being charged for this as this is a modeling practice and data will be synthesized from multiple resources in the literature. If there is a need for an additional dataset, we may accordingly budget for it.

GRA Health Insurance and Fees: $5,500 is being requested to cover the health insurance and fees for the research assistant.

Publication Costs: $0 is being requested towards publication costs of the study in a peer-reviewed open access journal.

Consultation Costs: $0 is being requested to cover the costs of foreseeable consultation services from expert colleagues in peer academic institutions.

[Estimated Total Costs: $130,000 is an estimated total costs for this project.]