

# **RJI\_Haven\_FAV\_SB0973**

Uploaded by: haven, kim

Position: FAV



# REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE INSIDE

c/o NPCMF

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## **SB 973 - Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness**

### **Reports on Housing Status**

Senator Mary Washington,

Reproductive Justice Inside (RJI) and our coalition members and partners stand in support of SB 973. RJI is Maryland's only statewide coalition working to address the needs of systems-involved individuals and their access to quality and timely sexual and reproductive healthcare and the right to parent with dignity.

This legislation will provide a mechanism for advocates and state officials to understand an issue that we have grappled with for years. When someone is released, there is only a cursory conversation and effort to address their housing situation. They can be released to a homeless shelter or a community-based program but those are short-term options and there is no plan beyond that.

The ability to access stable permanent housing is perhaps one of the greatest barriers facing individuals upon their release from incarceration. This is particularly acute for women who are released as there is both an expectation and desire to return to their children and families. Without stable housing, employment is difficult to obtain. Without housing you cannot get a job as you are worried about where you will lay your head – Without employment you cannot get housing – a vicious cycle that contributes in no small part to our rates of reentry to the criminal justice system.

This legislation will shine a bright light on an issue that has gone unaddressed for too long. It will allow us to understand the complex intersection of reentry, housing and recidivism. This information will provide a clear picture of the need and an opportunity for reform.

Simply put, SB 973 is good legislation and the Reproductive Justice Inside Coalition, its members and allies urge your support and favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Haven  
Reproductive Justice Inside  
Coalition Coordinator

**MAP\_FAV\_SB973**

Uploaded by: Jefferson, Stacey

Position: FAV



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 973

### Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness – Reports on Housing Status

*Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee*  
March 5, 2020

*Submitted by Stacey Jefferson and Margo Quinlan, Co-Chairs*

#### **Member Agencies:**

Advocates for Children and Youth  
Baltimore Jewish Council  
Behavioral Health System Baltimore  
CASH Campaign of Maryland  
Catholic Charities  
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland  
Family League of Baltimore  
Fuel Fund of Maryland  
Health Care for the Homeless  
Homeless Persons  
Representation Project  
Job Opportunities Task Force  
League of Women Voters of Maryland  
Loyola University Maryland  
Maryland Catholic Conference  
Maryland Center on Economic Policy  
Maryland Community Action  
Partnership  
Maryland Family Network  
Maryland Hunger Solutions  
Paul's Place  
Public Justice Center  
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore  
Welfare Advocates

#### **Marylanders Against Poverty**

Stacey Jefferson, Chair  
P: 410-637-1900 ext 8578  
C: 443-813-9231  
E: [stacey.jefferson@bhsbaltimore.org](mailto:stacey.jefferson@bhsbaltimore.org)

Margo Quinlan, Co-Chair  
C: 410-236-5488  
E: [mquinlan@familyleague.org](mailto:mquinlan@familyleague.org)

**Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) supports SB 973**, which require the Health Services Cost Review Commission, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Human Services to submit specific reports to the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness.

**Departmental data is valuable tool in the effort to address and end homelessness in Maryland.** Each report that SB 973 requires will provide critical information to the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness, and will help in determining which programs are working well, which goal are being met, and where there are systematic gaps in services. The data that SB 973 requests includes information on the status of patients discharged from hospitals, housing status of inmates released in the previous 12 months, and housing status of those served by workforce development programs – important information that allow the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness to carry out its goals.

**Accurate data is necessary to allocate resources.** With a greater wealth of information, the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness can better determine how to address homelessness in Maryland and work with advocates and service providers to meet the areas of greatest need.

**MAP appreciates your consideration, and strongly urges a favorable report on SB 973.**

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***Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.***

# **HSCRC\_INFO\_SB973**

Uploaded by: Terry, Tequila

Position: INFO

**State of Maryland  
Department of Health**

**Nelson J. Sabatini  
Chairman**

**Joseph Antos, PhD  
Vice-Chairman**

**Victoria W. Bayless**

**Stacia Cohen**

**John M. Colmers**

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**Katie Wunderlich  
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**Allan Pack, Director  
Population Based  
Methodologies**

**Chris Peterson, Director  
Payment Reform &  
Provider Alignment**

**Gerard J. Schmith, Director  
Revenue & Regulation  
Compliance**

**William Henderson, Director  
Medical Economics &  
Data Analytics**

**Health Services Cost Review Commission**

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March 5, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) submits this letter of information for SB 973 (SB 973) titled, “Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness - Reports on Housing Status”. SB 973 requires the HSCRC, among other entities, to report to the Joint Committee on Homelessness by November 15, 2020.

HSCRC supports the Joint Committee’s efforts to address homelessness and SB 973’s efforts to compile statewide data on the issue. The Maryland Health Model includes a global budget revenue payment system for hospitals that gives them the flexibility to focus on improving efficiency and quality within the hospital while also focusing on improving population health in the communities they serve. The Total Cost of Care Agreement with the federal government, which began January 1, 2019, further encourages investment in population and community health. Given this, hospitals have various opportunities to work on addressing social determinants of health, including housing insecurity and homelessness. For example, in 2019, Baltimore City’s hospitals partnered with the City of Baltimore and Healthcare for the Homeless to provide \$2 million in funding to combat homelessness. Information about this initiative has been described in several local publications.

However, while the HSCRC supports the spirit of SB 973, we do not currently have the data to carry out most of the reporting requirements listed under Section 1(a) of the bill. HSCRC can report the number of patients discharged, however, it does not have reliable data on discharged patients’ status of residence at the time of discharge. Similarly, HSCRC has limited data on housing status related to readmissions and the housing and social services provided to discharged patients by individual hospitals. Given these limitations, HSCRC can provide commentary to the extent practicable on the reporting requirements in SB 973, but it cannot provide the definitive information requested under Section 1(a)(2)(ii), Section 1(a)(2)(iii)1, Section 1(a)(2)(iii)2, and Section 1(a)(2)(iii)3.

HSCRC believes the Maryland Health Model contains various incentives for hospitals to invest in their communities, particularly for patients with housing insecurity. Given data limitations, however, the HSCRC cannot provide the level of reporting proposed in SB 973. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [tequila.terry1@maryland.gov](mailto:tequila.terry1@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tequila Terry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tequila Terry  
Deputy Director