

CORY V. McCRAY  
Legislative District 45  
Baltimore City

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Health and Human Services Subcommittee

Pensions Subcommittee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 221  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3165 · 301-858-3165  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3165  
Cory.Mccray@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

## **Vote Yes on Senate Bill SB520**

**Bill Title: Behavioral Health Programs – Opioid Treatment Services – Limitation on Licenses**

**Hearing Date: February 18, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Chair: Delores G. Kelley, Vice Chair: Brian J. Feldman**

I write to you today in **support** of Senate Bill SB520. This bill will help to ensure that the number of Behavioral Health Programs are effectively distributed across the State of Maryland.

According to the Maryland Department of Health, in the first quarter of 2019 there were 87 Behavioral Health programs in the State of Maryland and 35 of those were located in the City of Baltimore. This means that roughly forty percent of the programs were concentrated in a single jurisdiction, which is concerning.

The purpose of this bill is to prevent the Behavioral Health Administration from approving more than five licenses in each county for Behavioral Health programs that provide opioid treatment services for every 100,000 individuals who reside in that county. However, this bill will allow the administration to approve licenses above the established limit with the authorization of legislation passed by the General Assembly.

In efforts to ensure the most effective placements of Behavioral Health programs across the state of Maryland, we hope that you will move for a **favorable** report of Senate Bill 520.

Respectfully,

Cory V. McCray  
State Senator

## Vote "Yes" on Senate Bill 520

**Bill Title: Behavioral Health Programs – Opioid Treatment Services – Limitation on Licenses**

Hearing Date: February 18, 2020 at 1 p.m.

Chair: Delores G. Kelly, Vice Chair: Brian J. Feldman

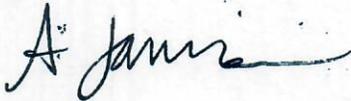
Dr. Angela Jancius  
3022 Christopher Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21214  
wniapresident@gmail.com

Honorable Representatives,

I am sending written testimony in support of Senate Bill 520. I am the President of the Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association (WNIA). I have a doctorate in Social Anthropology, and am writing today as a community advocate and resident of Baltimore City, in the 45<sup>th</sup> District.

We need an even dispersal of opioid treatment services that is rationally balanced to address community needs. Senate Bill 520 would help to achieve that goal. In our communities of northeast Baltimore, we are experiencing a rapid influx of opioid treatment services, where supply outweighs demand. In the last year alone, several new substance abuse treatment centers have opened within a one-mile radius, along our neighborhood's portion of the Harford Road commercial corridor. Residents have a great deal of empathy for individuals fighting addiction. This is a crisis that affects most households, and families. However, surplus supply of treatment services within close proximity can have a "clustering" effect, that is ineffective in dealing with the opioid crisis. We are observing that this can alter local demographics, attract criminal activity, and have an overall negative social and economic impact. Communities need balance. A surplus of opioid treatment services, clustered into urban areas, can be both ineffective and damaging. Residents of northeast Baltimore City thank you for voting in favor of Senate Bill 520, which will improve a more balanced dispersal of opioid treatment services throughout the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,



Angela Jancius, Ph.D.

President, Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association (WNIA)

## Vote "Yes" on Senate Bill 520

**Bill Title: SB 0520 –Behavioral Health Programs - Opioid Treatment Services - Limitation on Licenses**

Hearing Date: February 18, 2020 (1:00 PM)

Finance Committee

Chair: Delores G. Kelly; Vice Chair: Brian J. Feldman

Daniel Sturm, M.A.  
3022 Christopher Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21214  
sturmstories@gmail.com

February 17, 2020

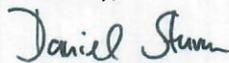
Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing to support Senate Bill SB 520 that is co-sponsored by State Senator Cory McCray. I have owned a home in the neighborhood of Westfield, located in Northeast Baltimore, since 2008. I am writing as an engaged neighbor and concerned citizen, who has compassion with people suffering from substance abuse and who cares about prudent city planning.

We need an even dispersal of opioid treatment centers that is rationally balanced to address community needs. Senate Bill 520 will help ensure that the number of Behavioral Health Programs are more evenly distributed among the State of Maryland. During the last year, alone, multiple new substance abuse treatment centers have opened within a 0.7 mile radius, along our neighborhood's portion of the Harford Road commercial corridor, between White Ave. and Northern Parkway.

I understand the need for treatment and compassionate services within a city that battles an opioid crisis. However, surplus supply of treatment services within close proximity can have a clustering effect that is ineffective in dealing with this crisis. Moreover, the clustering effect can significantly alter local demographics, attract criminal activity, and have an overall negative socio-economic impact. Ideally, we would have care that is more equally distributed, so that communities are directly served, so that people who need help don't need to travel, and so that some communities do not end up with clusters of behavioral health treatment that impact a social and economic balance. I thank you for voting in favor of Senate Bill SB 520, which will improve a more balanced dispersal of opioid treatment services throughout Maryland.

Sincerely,



Daniel Sturm, M.A.  
3022 Christopher Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21214

Chairman, Budget & Appropriations Committee  
Chairman, Judiciary & Legislative Investigations Committee  
Chairman, Biennial Audits Oversight Commission  
Chairman, Stormwater Remediation Oversight Committee



City Hall, Room 527  
100 N Holliday Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Land Use & Transportation Committee  
Taxation, Finance, & Economic Development Committee

Eric T. Costello

(o) 410-396-4816  
(m) 443-813-1457  
(e) [eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov)

Baltimore City Council, 11<sup>th</sup> District

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Senator Delores G. Kelley  
The Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman

RE: Senate Bill 520

I write to you today in support of Senate Bill SB520. This bill will help to ensure that the number of Behavioral Health Programs are effectively distributed across the State of Maryland.

According to the Maryland Department of Health, in the first quarter of 2019 there were 87 Behavioral Health programs in the State of Maryland and 35 of those were located in the City of Baltimore. This means that roughly forty percent of the programs were concentrated in a single jurisdiction, which is concerning.

The purpose of this bill is to prevent the Behavioral Health Administration from approving more than five licenses in each county for Behavioral Health programs that provide opioid treatment services for every 100,000 individuals who reside in that county. However, this bill will allow the administration to approve licenses above the established limit with the authorization of legislation passed by the General Assembly.

In efforts to ensure the most effective placements of Behavioral Health programs across the state of Maryland, we hope that you will move for a favorable report of Senate Bill 520.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me directly at [eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:eric.costello@baltimorecity.gov) or 410-396-4816.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric T. Costello".

Eric. T. Costello  
Baltimore City Council, 11th District

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL



**Councilwoman Danielle McCray**  
**Second District**

ROOM 525, CITY HALL  
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202  
TELEPHONE: 410-396-4808  
danielle.mccray@baltimorecity.gov

VICE-CHAIR  
TAXATION, FINANCE & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER  
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
LABOR COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chairwoman Delores Kelley, Vice Chairman Brian Feldman, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you in support of Senate Bill 520 Behavioral Health Programs Opioid Treatment Services - Limitation on Licenses. This bill will ensure that the number of Behavioral Health Programs are effectively distributed across the State of Maryland.

The purpose of this bill is to prevent the Behavioral Health Administration from approving more than five licenses in each county for Behavioral Health programs that provide opioid treatment services for every 100,000 individuals who reside in that county. However, this bill will allow the administration to approve licenses above the established limit with the authorization of legislation passed by the General Assembly.

According to the Maryland Department of Health, in the first quarter of 2019, there were more than 80 Behavioral Health programs in the State of Maryland and 35 of those were located in the City of Baltimore. This means that roughly forty percent of the programs were concentrated in a single jurisdiction, which is concerning.

In efforts to ensure the most effective placements of Behavioral Health programs across the state of Maryland, I support a favorable report of Senate Bill 520.

Sincerely,

Danielle McCray

Baltimore City Councilwoman - 2nd District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danielle McCray'.



Printed on  
Recycled Paper



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL**  
**KRISTERFER BURNETT, 8<sup>th</sup> District**

Committees: Executive Appointments, Housing and Urban Affairs,  
Public Safety, Education and Youth

Room 521, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Office: 410-396-4818  
Fax: 410-396-4828

**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 0520  
**TITLE:** Behavioral Health Programs - Opioid Treatment Services -  
Limitation on Licenses  
**COMMITTEE:** Finance  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT

This bill prohibits more than five behavioral health programs focused on opioid treatment services per county. Any additional licenses would require a legislative act.

The safety of both the individuals served and the community at large is paramount to a successful behavioral health program. I support this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Burnett".

Kristerfer Burnett  
City Councilmen District 8  
Baltimore City



**Zeke Cohen**

Councilmember

*First District*

513 City Hall • Baltimore, MD 21202 • 410-396-4821 • ZEKE.COHEN@BALTIMORECITY.GOV

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February 14, 2020

Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing  
11 Bladen St  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Support of Senate Bill 520: Behavioral Health Programs – Opioid Treatment Services – Limitation on Licenses

Chair Delores G.Kelley and Vice-Chair Brian J. Feldman,

I write to you today in **support** of Senate Bill 520. This bill will help to ensure that the number of Behavioral Health Programs are effectively distributed across the State of Maryland.

According to the Maryland Department of Health, in the first quarter of 2019 there were 87 Behavioral Health programs in the State of Maryland and 35 of those were located in the City of Baltimore. This means that roughly forty percent of the programs were concentrated in a single jurisdiction, which is concerning.

The purpose of this bill is to prevent the Behavioral Health Administration from approving more than five licenses in each county for Behavioral Health programs that provide opioid treatment services for every 100,000 individuals who reside in that county. However, this bill will allow the administration to approve licenses above the established limit with the authorization of legislation passed by the General Assembly.

In efforts to ensure the most effective placements of Behavioral Health programs across the state of Maryland, we hope that you will move for a **favorable** report of Senate Bill 520.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zeke Cohen".

Councilmember Zeke Cohen

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**CHAIR: EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**

# BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL



**MARY PAT CLARKE**  
14<sup>th</sup> District

City Hall, Room 550  
100 N. Holliday St.  
Baltimore, Md 21202  
410-396-4814  
410-545-7585 fax

[marypat.clarke@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:marypat.clarke@baltimorecity.gov)

February 16, 2020

Chairwoman Delores Kelley, Vice Chairman Brian Feldman and Members

Finance Committee

Maryland State Senate

3 East Miller Senate Building, 11 Bladen Street

Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: Support for Senate Bills 519, 520, 521, 522, lead sponsor Senator Cory McCray

Distinguished Chairwoman Kelley, Vice Chairman Feldman, and Members, Finance Committee: Senator Cory McCray and I represent portions of the same neighborhood and understand that, despite a crucial public need for services, various State health and social service programs compromise their missions by cropping-up without advance notice to surrounding neighbors, a frequent and disrespectful occurrence in our most disadvantaged communities.

Many of such programs actually “victimize” the very persons they are designed to help through inadequate attention and lack of professional oversight. Meanwhile, for lack of notice and discussion, programs are frequently regarded as intrusions and disruptions of neighborhood security.

These four bills address specific improvements which contribute to better treatments for patients and more respectful partnerships with affected neighbors. I urge your support and thank you for your consideration.

## Senate Bill 0519. Public Health–Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities – Safety Plan

Bill 519 prohibits licensure until a proposed facility provides a safety plan for its patients and for “the community surrounding the behavioral health program.” This ensures that the community has the chance to negotiate on behalf of itself and on behalf of patients yet to be identified, a process that rarely occurs in my experience. “Earning” licensure in such circumstances is the ideal safeguard for achieving the safety and respect due all parties.