

Michael C. O'Connor
Mayor



Marc DeOcampo
Chief Administrative Officer

Gayon Sampson
Executive Assistant to the Mayor

FREDERICK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 7, 2020

Delegate Karen Lewis-Young
416 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

LETTER OF SUPPORT: HOUSE BILL 580 - BIOSAFETY LEVEL 3 LABORATORIES

Dear Delegate Lewis-Young,

I am writing in support of HB 580, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Biosafety Level 3 Laboratories. As Mayor of The City of Frederick I believe HB 580 will help protect the citizens, businesses and agriculture from the self-regulated high containment laboratories. The City of Frederick is home to the US Army Garrison, Fort Detrick, which provides sustainable base operations support, quality of life programs, and environmental stewardship to facilitate the sustainment of vital national interests. Currently there is no mechanism for anyone at any level of government to determine the presence or location of such laboratories. At this time it is not possible to know how many such laboratories are operating in Maryland. No government entity provides independent external laboratory safety oversight of BSL-3 laboratories that do not work with BSAT. It is essential to establish oversight for these laboratories in Maryland.

I urge you, the members of this committee, to support this very important measure and vote in favor of HB 580.

Sincerely,

Michael O'Connor
Mayor