



CARE BRAVELY

SB929 – Public Safety - Baltimore City - P.R.O.T.E.C.T. (Public Resources Organizing to End Crime Together) Program

Senate Judicial Proceedings- March 3, 2020

Testimony of Adam Rosenberg, Vice President, Violence Intervention and Prevention, LifeBridge Health
Position: **SUPPORT**

I write in SUPPORT of SB929, which would, among other things, establish the P.R.O.T.E.C.T. (Public Resources Organizing to End Crime Together) Program, target collaborative law enforcement and community resources on ten state “micro-zones,” and ensure continued collaboration among the Department of State Police, the Division of Parole and Probation, and the Department of Juvenile Services to establish and operate a warrant apprehension task force partnership.

LifeBridge Health is a regional health system comprising Sinai Hospital, Levindale Geriatric Center and Hospital, and Grace Medical Center (formerly Bon Secours) in Baltimore; Northwest Hospital in Reisterstown; and Carroll Hospital. It also now proudly houses a comprehensive violence program that addresses violence through the lifespan, and includes the Baltimore Child Abuse Center, two domestic violence programs, and elder justice program, and two street violence interruption programs, including Kujichagulia Center (Swahili for “self-determination), a hospital-based violence intervention program, and a new SafeStreets program in Park Heights.

Evidence-based multidisciplinary team approach. Curbing the epidemic of street violence in Baltimore City will take a concerted approach that focuses on best practices around the nation, such as a public health approach, and partnerships among law enforcement agencies and community members in the areas most affected by violence. LifeBridge Health’s comprehensive violence center uses several evidence-based best practices, including ones relevant to the collaborative approach in HB1408, such as:

- Multi-disciplinary teams that include law enforcement, child welfare agencies, medical and mental health professionals
- Skilled hospital responders, based on the collaborative Cure Violence model, who help patients suffering from street violence to avoid the risk of retaliation or re-victimization
- Shared data analysis among violence teams
- Community outreach team that builds community support

Violence is a treatable public health crisis. As public health professionals, we understand that urban gun violence is a preventable public health disease – among its best treatment is to provide trauma-informed, culturally competent and multidisciplinary services to the individuals most directly affected by urban gun violence.

LifeBridge Health joins the Mayor’s Office on Criminal Justice, the Baltimore City Police Department, SafeStreets and ROCA in support of this bill.

For all of the heretofore stated reasons, we request a **FAVORABLE** report for SB929.