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BILL NO.: **HB 780**

TITLE: Criminal Law - Crime of Violence - Vulnerable Adult

SPONSOR: Delegate Pippy

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 25, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 780 – Criminal Law - Crime of Violence - Vulnerable Adult. This bill would alter the definition of “crime of violence” to include the abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult.

In Baltimore County we celebrate our elderly residents and strive to help those of our adult population who are most in need. Abuse of vulnerable adults, whether it be the elderly or those with intellectual disabilities, is a heinous act and one that should not be construed to be tolerated by the law in the slightest. Abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults is certainly an act of violence, as they cause physical or emotional harm to the adult which may adversely affect their well-being indefinitely. This bill would ensure that justice is brought to anyone who engages in this sort of cruelty by allowing the Court to consider these cases as the crimes of violence we know them to be.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 780. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.