



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
Mayor

MICHAEL S. HARRISON
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of the House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Director of Government Affairs, Baltimore Police Dept.
RE: House Bill 780 – Criminal Law - Crime of Violence - Vulnerable Adult

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Atterbeary, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department **supports** House Bill 780.

House Bill 780 expands the definition of crime of violence to include abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult by a caregiver, a parent, or other person who has permanent or temporary care or responsibility for the supervision of the vulnerable adult.

By definition, vulnerable adults are those who lack the physical or mental capacity to provide for their own daily needs. They rely on and trust their loved ones and caregivers to provide for their basic needs and ensure that they are safe from harm. Those who violate that trust must receive a strict penalty.

The Baltimore Police Department is working to strengthen its relationship with Baltimore City seniors by reinstating the *Senior Liaison Program*. Our goal is to ensure that seniors in Baltimore City know their rights and have somewhere safe to turn when they are being abused or are aware of abuse.

That being said, we need all of the tools we can garner to get predators who seek to hurt others off the street. Therefore, we respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 780.