

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0463.pdf

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JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Director of Government Affairs

JOEL N. BELLER
Deputy Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **SB 463**

TITLE: Public Safety – Police Athletic League Grant Fund –
Establishment

SPONSOR: Senator West

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 2, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 463 – Public Safety – Police Athletic League Grant Fund – Establishment. This legislation creates the Police Athletic League Grant Fund to create and support police athletic league (PAL) programs.

PAL centers provide essential after school and summer programs that encourage youth to play and exercise. Baltimore County Executive Olszewski requested \$1 million in capital funding for two Police Athletic League Centers this year because he knows they are an upstream investment in the County’s children that provide support beyond the classroom. Baltimore County currently has nine PAL centers support more than 950 registered children.

When Marylanders can all recover and congregate after the COVID-19 pandemic, our children will have spent far too much time staying indoors and away from one another. Investments in outdoor activities are critical to promote socialization and an active lifestyle by making funds available now, SB 463 will ensure that PAL programs will be funded and ready for use when we can gather safely.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 463. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.

BMNCBV TESITMONY FOR HB463.pdf

Uploaded by: Conner, Sandra

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**Baptist Ministers' Night Conference of
Baltimore and Vicinity (BMNCBV)**

5405 York Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212, (443) 386.4739



**TESTIMONY OF
REV. DR. SANDRA CONNER,
PRESIDENT BAPTIST MINISTERS'
NIGHT CONFERENCE OF BALTIMORE
& VICINITY (BMNCBV)
BEFORE THE HEALTH AND
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE
IN SUPPORT OF HB 463,
THE MARYLAND HEALTH EQUITY RESOURCE ACT
February 2, 2021**

First, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony for a very important health legislature that will not only benefit people of color, but all citizens of Maryland. Second, faith groups from across Maryland are a key part of the HERC coalition of over 250 organizations which have endorsed this proposal.

We acknowledge the fact that Maryland has high quality health systems; however, we also realize it's time for it to make greater investments to address inequities and disparities in those areas within the state that lack vital health resources. The Health Equity Resource Communities proposal would be a great way to do this.

We welcome the plan for the HERC to generate the funds needed for this initiative by increasing the alcoholic beverages tax by one penny per dollar. The alcohol sales tax increase would also save lives by reducing underage drinking and drunk driving.

Because many of us in the faith community believe doing whatever we can to eradicate health inequities and disparities is our moral obligation, we will make enacting the Health Equity Resource Communities legislation one of our top priorities for the 2021 Maryland General Assembly session. We pray that our legislators will heed our call.

We thank you in advance for your actions towards HB463.

Best Regards,
Pastor Sandra Conner,
President Baptist Ministers' Night Conference of Baltimore & Vicinity

2021 NASW HB 463 House Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Faulkner, Rachael

Position: FAV



**Testimony before Health and Government Operations & Ways and Means
House Bill 463: Maryland Health Equity Resource Act**

****SUPPORT**
February 2, 2021**

The National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter (NASW-MD) requests your support for House Bill 463: Maryland Health Equity Resource Act. This bill would reduce health disparities by requiring the Secretary of Health to designate certain areas as Healthy Equity Resource Communities and improve access to primary care, promote prevention services, thereby reducing the need for hospitalizations and the inherent costs of high-end care. The bill would also authorize tax credits for certain health care providers and organizations.

NASW is the largest national organization of social workers, representing over 120,000 social workers nationally. The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living.

Social Workers from across the state of Maryland who work with communities of color have firsthand knowledge of the damage caused by inadequate health care resources from those they serve. One of the goals of the Grand Challenges for Social Work is to have a socially-oriented model of healthcare that breaks down and removes the root causes of health inequity and promotes upstream interventions and primary care prevention that will eradicate the gap that exists for marginalized populations

HB 463 will empower communities to reduce the health disparities that have impacted people of color for far too long. This has been especially highlighted within the past year, as we have witnessed the COVID-19 pandemic impact Black and Brown communities harder than White communities.

NASW-MD urges you to support HB 463 and create a safer, more inclusive Maryland. Thank you for all you do to reach a healthier Maryland.

Daphne McClellan, Executive Director, NASW-MD

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BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 5

February 2, 2021

TO: Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations

RE: SENATE BILL 5 – Public Health - Implicit Bias Training and The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 5.

SB 5 requires, among other provisions, the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to publish, to a certain extent, health data that includes race and ethnicity information collected by the Office and to provide updates at least every 6 months and develop a cultural competency program regarding implicit bias for health occupations.

In Baltimore City, extreme disparities exist between majority and minority residents. To address these disparities, greater data must be made available to local governments, as well as Maryland residents, to better focus assistance. Additionally, minority residents in the City are disadvantaged when their health providers dismiss their concerns due to a lack of cultural competency or biases of which they are not cognizant. Overall, this bill addresses many of the concerns BCA has with respect to its care for its most vulnerable minority residents.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 5.

SB 463 Police Athletic League Grant Funding.pdf

Uploaded by: Rose, David

Position: FAV



BALTIMORE COUNTY LODGE NO. 4
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

INCORPORATED

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DAVID M. ROSE
LODGE PRESIDENT

DONNA M. PATTERSON
LODGE SECRETARY

Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chairman
Budget and Taxation3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Md 21401

RE: Senate Bill 463 – Public Safety – Police Athletic League Grant Fund – Establishment – Support

Chairman Guzzone,

The Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #4 and the Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police are in support of SB 463.

The Police Athletic League (PAL) is an important program for building relationships between youths and police officers in the community. The PAL program allows for nontraditional law enforcement and youth interaction that often leads to mentoring and the breaking down of barriers that have become quite visible in recent years.

In the beginning of the great recession in 2009 when funding priorities had to be made, many of these programs were deemed a “low priority” in tough budgetary times. Funding was cut and PAL facilities were either closed, had officers reassigned elsewhere or both. At the time, this seemed like a prudent decision. However, a decade later, we now deal with the unforeseen consequences of what was probably the most important purpose of this program. Building police, community, and youth relationships. We have since lost a whole generation of positivity. Hopefully with the passing of SB 463, there will be sufficient funding to allow this program to stay viable and open. Only then can we move forward in rebuilding the relationships we took for granted in the past.

The Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #4 and the Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police urge a favorable report on SB 463.

Dave Rose
President
Baltimore County FOP Lodge #4

REPRESENTING THE PROFESSIONAL POLICE OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY



Hill_SB463_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: West, Christopher

Position: FAV

Cherelle Hill - Executive Director - DMV PAL – Senate Bill 463 SUPPORT Testimony

You may know PAL as the “Police Athletic League,” and sports may come to mind, but we are so much more. PALs in communities create safe havens for youth and law enforcement officers to build community and meaningful relationships. PALs are a channel in which barriers are broken down and bridges are built, but they are nothing without the people themselves. Through our work at DMV PAL, we have seen communities bettered as a result of engagement in the program. Have you ever seen a group of high school students in one of the toughest cities in the country use art as a tool of self-expression and form of release? At DMV PAL, we have. We have seen young men of color learn tools, such as meditation and mindfulness, to combat stressors in their lives and environments. We have seen youth on the autism spectrum push past limitations others have set and find the power of their voice. We have seen youth express their frustration with the current state of the country and the world and create beautiful works of art out of unfortunate situations. We have seen youth learn the meaning of community and the importance of paying it forward, by being able to provide a basic necessity, food, and words of encouragement, for the less fortunate. PAL is a place where no dream is too big, no voice goes unheard, and no child is forgotten. Throughout the pandemic and this very unprecedented time in history, DMV PAL has been able to provide for our families and ensure our youth and their families have what they need to not only survive, but thrive. We are more than an after school program. As we like to say in PAL, “Once a PAL kid, always a PAL kid,” and at DMV PAL we are a family. Having grown up in PAL myself, I know firsthand the positive impact PAL has had on my life and I hope kids all across the state and the world have the opportunity to grow in PAL. I am in full support of this bill that will help to ensure families are given the same opportunities to thrive, no matter their background, socioeconomic status, creed, gender, or race.

Contact info - cdhill@dmvpal.org

Senator West - SB463 - Public Safety – Police Athl

Uploaded by: West, Christopher

Position: FAV

CHRIS WEST
Legislative District 42
Baltimore County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Vice Chair, Baltimore County
Senate Delegation



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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February 2, 2021

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 463 – Public Safety – Police Athletic League Grant Fund - Establishment

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee,

Police athletic leagues are summer and after-school drop-in programs which provide a safe, positive and developing atmosphere for young people between the ages of 8 and 17 who live in areas which are crime and violence-prone. They feature fun and enriching daily programs of athletics, creative activities and personal development. Police and community volunteers join in supervising the activities. In Baltimore County alone, there are 9 PAL locations. The PAL programs break barriers, change attitudes and build meaningful relationships by providing opportunities for youth and officers to positively engage with one another.

The State of Maryland has supported PAL programs through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. In 2018 alone, the Hogan Administration awarded \$250,000 to six jurisdictions to start PAL programs in Annapolis, Baltimore City, Cambridge, Salisbury, Hagerstown and Cecil County. As these programs give police an opportunity to get involved in children's lives in a meaningful way, the PAL programs are especially important today, after a year in which very negative messages about police officers were transmitted to Maryland's youth.

Senate Bill 463 sets up the Police Athletic League Grant Fund in the GOCCP office, requires annual State funding in the amount of \$500,000 and directs the Executive Director of GOCCP to establish procedures for local governments and organizations to apply for grants from the Fund. In this way, support for local police athletic leagues will be established as an ongoing program of the Government of Maryland.

This is a very modest measure but an important one as we seek ways of healing the acrimony between the State law enforcement community and its citizens, particularly its citizens of color.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 463 and of course will be willing to answer any questions of the Committee members.

SB 463 PAL Grant (West) B&T 2.2.21.pdf

Uploaded by: Wilkins, Barbara

Position: INFO



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 463 Public Safety - Police Athletic League Grant Fund - Establishment (West)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 2, 2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation

SUMMARY OF BILL:. SB 463 creates a grant fund within the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services; and mandates an annual appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 to provide grant assistance to local governments and organizations to create and support Police Athletic League programs.

EXPLANATION: The Department of Budget and Management's focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the annual \$500,000 mandated appropriation.

DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which requires spending allocations for FY 2022 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2020.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19, making revenue predictions for the remainder of FY 2021 and FY 2022 highly volatile. Many individuals and households are unemployed or underemployed, with many industry sectors operating at much less than 100% capacity. Federal stimulus programs are providing much needed relief, but the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a significant budgetary vulnerability.

The highest priority of the Administration is to work with the 2021 General Assembly in enacting the Governor's emergency Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families Act (SB 496/HB 612 RELIEF Act). The RELIEF Act provides \$1 billion in direct stimulus and tax relief for Maryland working families, small businesses, and those who have lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
(410) 260-6371 or barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov**

