

CORY V. MCCRAY  
Legislative District 45  
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Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Vote Yes on Senate Bill 96**

**Bill Title: Public Health – Behavioral Health Programs and Health Care Facilities – Safety and Community Relations Plans**

**Hearing Date: January 26, 2021 – Finance Committee**

**Chair: The Honorable Delores Kelly; Vice Chair: The Honorable Brian Feldman**

I write to you today in **support** of Senate Bill 96. Behavioral health programs provide mental health case management, which allows for their employees to gain insight into clients' emotional and psychological well-being. These programs require licensure in order to operate in the State of Maryland.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Behavioral Health Administration to adopt regulations that would govern the requirements for the licensure of a behavioral health program to include a safety plan that ensures the safety of all individuals served before the license is issued. Further, it would require that programs submit a community relations plan, if required by its accrediting organization, that would effectively engage their clients and their families while also promoting adequate community outreach. The Behavioral Health Administration shall take into consideration the submitted safety and community relations plan prior to the Administration approving a facility.

If enacted, this bill would take effect on October 1, 2021.

In efforts to ensure that every behavioral health program is providing the utmost quality of care and safety to its respective clients and communities, we hope that you will move for a **favorable** report of Senate Bill 96.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray  
45<sup>th</sup> District