

Jacqueline Fulton, MD

February 9, 2021

MD State Senate

Dear Senator Carter ,

I am writing to you **in support of SB0299** Trauma Informed Commission.

As way of introduction: I am a native Baltimorean, an African American pediatrician who has practiced for more than 40 years in the inner city of Baltimore. In 2019, I was honored to receive the Dr Russo Memorial Award from the City for my work serving the underserved in the Baltimore community. I am the widow of state Delegate Tony Fulton and proudly called Congressman Elijah Cummings a good friend of mine for more than 50 years. I have two wonderful daughters and two grandsons all of whom call Baltimore home.

In my over 40 years of practicing and living in Baltimore, I have many ,many times witnessed the effects of trauma in my community and on my patients. I have experienced and continue to experience the personal and professional effects of racism even as I journeyed to become a physician and a servant leader in my community. Trauma however takes many forms and it's good to see this being acknowledged by this legislation.

I truly hope that with this commission we can begin to repair the damage done and prevent future generations from experiencing organizational/institutional trauma. I hope that the next generations will see our effort to make life better for the citizens of Maryland no matter what their zip code, socioeconomic status, race or gender may be.

The agencies that serve the citizens of Maryland *can* be revamped to provide services in a trauma -sensitive way *without* causing fiscal damage to the state's budget. It's all in how we commit to making it happen. This commission would serve as a good start.

On a personal note, I have taken the trauma- informed care course that California physicians , under the guidance of Dr Nadine Burke Harris, have been mandated to take in order to bill for trauma- informed services in California and I feel that that is a great model that with appropriate modification could work here in Maryland.

The only concern I have about SB 0299 is that in the legislation as written the agency heads can delegate representation to the commission as well as the training at their

individual agencies — so there is **nothing mandating that the agency heads receive the training *themselves***. This **weakness in the legislation** needs to be addressed since the agency heads are called to be the change agents in this endeavor.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In service,

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