



**Zeke Cohen**

Councilmember

*First District*

513 City Hall • Baltimore, MD 21202 • 410-396-4821 • ZEKE.COHEN@BALTIMORECITY.GOV

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February 5, 2021

RE: [HB284 – Human Services – Trauma Informed Care – Commission and Training](#)

Dear Health and Operations Committee of the Maryland State House of Representatives,

We are writing this letter today to formally support the passage HB284—Human Services—Trauma informed Care—Commission and Training.

This legislation would establish a Commission on Trauma-Informed Care to coordinate a statewide initiative to prioritize the trauma-responsive and trauma-informed delivery of state services that impact children, youth, families, and older adults.

According to data from [The Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative](#), 56% of Baltimore’s children and 41.6% of children across Maryland have experienced one or more major traumatic events. Left unaddressed, each of these adverse childhood experiences can have a devastating impact on health outcomes and lead to an increased risk of addiction, incarceration and other risky behaviors.

The CDC used survey data from more than 144,000 adults from 25 states and found that 60% reported at least one bad childhood experience. One in six people across the United States has experienced four or more kinds of adverse childhood experiences. Women, American Indian and Alaskan Natives, and African Americans were more likely to experience four or more of these experiences.

Trauma is often looked at as a problem of inner-city neighborhoods and poor families—but trauma is not isolated to one area of the state, and in reality, we all likely know somebody who has experienced a traumatic experience. More so, given these statistics it is very likely that state employees who work with and serve the public, are serving people who have indeed, experienced some form of trauma in their own lives.

Locally, in Baltimore many people are already working on initiatives. We have worked to turn Baltimore into a trauma-responsive city by passing very similar legislation at the local level, the Elijah Cummings Healing City Act. Mayor Scott, his cabinet and their staff as well as City Council members and their staff have all begun training. Training in city agencies is set to begin soon. Schools throughout the city use restorative practices to help students work through their behavioral issues rather than punishing them. We encourage other communities in the state to adopt similar strategies.

We support this legislation as a step toward the state of Maryland becoming a trauma-informed state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zeke Cohen".

**HAIR: EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE**



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## Individual Sign Ons

| First Name | Last Name              | Street Address                          | Zip Code   |
|------------|------------------------|---|------------|
| Jessica    | Fauntleroy             | 4017 Cranston Avenue                    | 21229      |
| Desyree    | Dixon                  | 1534 Bolton Street                      | 21217      |
| Donna      | Bruce                  | 5A Crismers Court                       | 21207      |
| Tracy      | Bale                   | 236 E. Montgomery St.                   | 21230      |
| Eric       | Ford                   | The Shriver Center, 1000 Hilltop Circle | 21250      |
| Annette    | March-Grier            | 928 E. North Avenue                     | 21202      |
| Yahtley    | Phoenix                | 2121 Windsor Garden Lane                | 21207      |
| Monica     | Guerrero Vazquez       | 3609 Woodlea Ave                        | 21214      |
| Tiffinee   | Scott                  | 2233 Orleans St                         | 21231      |
| Meredith   | Lonberger              | 3 South Potomac Street                  | 21224      |
| Chanei     | Clemons                | 28 Neves Ct                             | 21234      |
| Blake      | Maciel                 | 1329 Roland Heights Ave.                | 21211      |
| Angela     | Waddell                | 1223 Oakhurst Place                     | 21216      |
| Panagis    | Galiatsatos            | 4940 Eastern Avenue                     | 21224      |
| Mark       | Jews                   | 3605 GIBBONS AVE                        | 21214-2724 |
| Melissa    | Buckley                | 3329 Noble Street                       | 21224      |
| Charnell   | Covert                 | 3204 Brightwood Avenue                  | 21207      |
| Susan      | Magsamen               | 912 Western Run Road                    | 21030      |
| Donna      | Batkis, LCSW-C,MPM,QBS | 600 N Wolfe St                          | 21287      |
|            |                        |   |            |

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|          |             |                                     |        |  |  |
|----------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------|--|--|
| Jessica  | Cook-Thomas | 835 Wildwood Parkway                | 21229  |  |  |
| Erricka  | Bridgeford  | 136 Garden Ridge Road               | 21228  |  |  |
| Lindsay  | Gavin       | 1708 W. Rogers Ave.                 | 21209  |  |  |
| Christa  | Gilliam     | 1012 Argonne Dr.                    | 21218  |  |  |
| Ali      | Smith       | 1014 West 36th Street, Baltimore MD | 21211  |  |  |
| Sharon   | Bucknor     | 3001 East Drive                     | 21217  |  |  |
| Nikki    | Cobbs       | 4918 Villa Point Drive              | 21001  |  |  |
| Lee      | Bone        | 6007 Hunt Club Lane                 | 21210  |  |  |
| Israel   | Nunez       | 1738 Wentworth Ave.                 | 21234  |  |  |
| Jamal    | Turner      | 5210 Sipple Ave                     | 21206  |  |  |
| Dara     | Feldman     | 11223 Orleans Way                   | 20895  |  |  |
| Jakerya  | Randolph    | 15 Charles Plz Apt 605              | 21201  |  |  |
| Angela   | Venza       | 6005 Ready Avenue                   | 212121 |  |  |
| Neatrice | Holmes      | 6149 PARKWAY DRIVE FL#1             | 21212  |  |  |
| Peter    | Bain        | 205 Goodwood Gardens, Baltimore, MD | 21210  |  |  |

## Organizational Sign Ons

| What is your first name? | What is your last name? | Street Address        | Zip Code | Organization                             |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------|--|
| Jessica                  | Fauntleroy              | 4017 Cranston Avenue  | 21229    | Restoring Destiny Mental Health Services |
| Desyree                  | Dixon                   | 1534 Bolton Street    | 21217    | Bolton Therapy & Wellness                |
| Donna                    | Bruce                   | 5A Crismers Court     | 21207    | Donna Bruce                              |
| Tracy                    | Bale                    | 236 E. Montgomery St. | 21230    | No                                       |

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|          |                            |  |                |   |
|----------|----------------------------|--|----------------|---|
| Eric     | Ford                       | The Shriver Center,<br>1000 Hilltop Circle | 21250          | The Choice Program at UMBC  |
| Annette  | March-Grier                | 928 E. North Avenue                        | 21202____      | Roberta's House Inc.  |
| Yahtley  | Phoenix                    | 2121 Windsor Garden<br>Lane                | 21207          | MPAC-Maryland Peer Advisory<br>Council                                  |
| Tiffinee | Scott                      | 2233 Orleans St                            | 21231          | MPAC  |
| Meredith | Lonberger                  | 3 South Potomac<br>Street                  | 21224          | Up2Us Sports Baltimore  |
| Mark     | Jews                       | 3605 GIBBONS AVE                           | 21214-<br>2724 | Holistic Health Counseling and<br>Coaching                              |
| Melissa  | Buckley                    | 3329 Noble Street                          | 21224          | Healing City Baltimore  |
| Susan    | Magsamen                   | 912 Western Run<br>Road                    | 21030          | Johns Hopkins Arts and Mind Lab,<br>Center for Applied NeuroAesthetics. |
| Donna    | Batkis, LCSW-<br>C,MPM,QBS | 600 N Wolfe St                             | 21287          | Johns Hopkins Hospital  |
| Donna    | Batkis,LCSW-<br>C,MPM,QBS  | 305 Washington<br>Avenue                   | 21204          | Consultas Psychotherapy Practice,<br>LLC                                |
| Erricka  | Bridgeford                 | 136 Garden Ridge<br>Road                   | 21228          | Baltimore Ceasefire 365   |
| Ali      | Smith                      | 1014 West 36th<br>Street, Baltimore MD     | 21211          | The Holistic Life Foundation  |
| Dara     | Feldman                    | 11223 Orleans Way                          | 20895          | Virtues Matter  |

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