



**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE**

**SENATE BILL 406 – PUBLIC SAFETY - LOCAL YOUTH VIOLENCE REVIEW COMMITTEES**

**Sponsor: Senator Augustine**

**February 11, 2021**

**DONALD C. FRY  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

**Position: Support**

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports Senate Bill 406, which authorizes local jurisdictions to create local Youth Violence Review Committees. The purpose of the Youth Violence Review Committees is to prevent violence and homicides involving youth assailants by promoting cooperation and coordination among criminal justice agencies and agencies that provide services and interventions to youth. The committees would also work to develop an understanding of the root causes of youth violence, and develop plans for and recommend changes within the agencies the members represent.

The GBC's 2021 Legislative Priorities urges improved public safety through enhanced coordination among criminal justice agencies and implementation of comprehensive violence reduction strategies. To effectively reduce violent crime, it is critically important that policymakers and stakeholders join together in a coordinated approach that reduces violent crime while simultaneously addressing the root causes of crime such as poverty, joblessness, and a lack of education or workforce training.

By bringing together public and private sector entities such as law enforcement agencies, the State's Attorney's Office, the local health department, the local Department of Social Services, the Division of Parole and Probation, hospitals, the judiciary, and others will allow all parties to gain a strong understanding of the causes of youth violence. As a result, the group can make recommendations on positive steps each agency can take and work to increase cooperation among those directly involved with affected youth.

The GBC strongly supports passage of Senate Bill 406 and all legislation that strengthens laws and coordination among criminal justice agencies.

**For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 406.**

*The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 66-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.*

**GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

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