



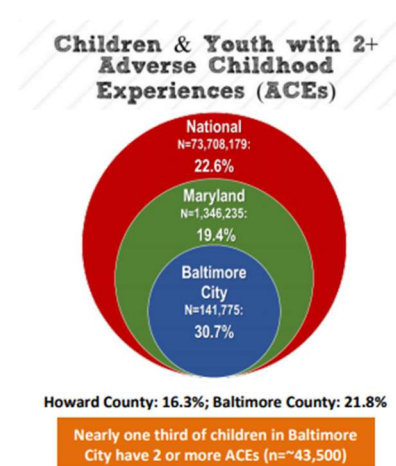
SB299– Human Services - Trauma-Informed Care - Commission and Training

Senate Finance Committee – February 11, 2021

Testimony of Adam Rosenberg, Executive Director, Center for Hope

Position: **SUPPORT**

The Center for Hope supports SB299’s effort to prioritize the trauma–responsive and trauma–informed delivery of state services that impact children, youth, and families. The Center for Hope, a subsidiary of LifeBridge Health, is a comprehensive violence program that addresses violence through the lifespan, and includes a child advocacy center, domestic violence programs, street violence interruption programs and an elder abuse program. The Baltimore Child Abuse Center, is a nationally accredited trauma-informed child advocacy center, that, among other things, trains adults and youth serving organizations to recognize and respond to trauma and to implement trauma-informed policies for staff and clients.



ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Affect Us All. Decades of research shows us that ACEs like witnessing community violence or experiencing abuse affects a child’s brain development, and ultimately can lead to poor outcomes in school; incarceration; addiction; disease and even early death. Though the ACE score of Marylanders vary by county, no community is immune from trauma.

The Governor’s Office addresses ACEs and trauma. Addressing ACEs is one of the main programmatic goals of Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention – now named the Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services. This agency has supported numerous programs such as accrediting children’s advocacy centers, human trafficking initiatives, and witness to violence initiatives.

A trauma-informed workplace benefits everyone, even staff. Being a trauma-informed organization is a cultural shift. It means ensuring that all staff members are sensitive to the different ways trauma can manifest in clients and co-workers; taking measures to prevent re-traumatizing victims; and providing a safe, stable environment for clients and staff alike, from the moment they interact with the facility.

Instituting trauma-informed policies at the State level can help address and mitigate the long-lasting effects of ACEs, and the economic drain that untreated trauma creates on our public resources. This is critical in state agencies that serve victims of violence, such as the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

For these reasons, we request a **FAVORABLE** report for SB299 and thank Senator Carter for the bill.

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LifeBridge Health is a regional health system comprising Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Levindale Geriatric Center and Hospital in Baltimore; Northwest Hospital; Carroll Hospital and Grace Medical Center.