



March 1, 2022

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Mills Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Pinsky,

The Northwest Baltimore Partnership (NWBP) fully supports SB522 – Child Safe Zone Program – Providing Equitable Access to Safe Parks. NWBP recognizes public safety as a key element of the redevelopment of our community. Indeed, we are acutely aware of the impact of violence and crime on our communities.

This bill will help communicate in a strong way that parks are a safe place for children and families to congregate, creating community interaction and providing a respite from the pressures of daily life. And for children who are exposed to violence of any kind in their lives, having a place where they can play safely and engage socially is critical to their recovery and happiness.

In addition to seeing signs that the park is a “Child Safe Zone,” park users will also benefit from seeing improvements that deter violence and crime. Better lighting and access control, creative landscaping, enhanced security measures and increased staffing will enhance public safety in these settings and encourage even more people to utilize these natural resources.

We request that you give SB522 a FAVORABLE report.

Best Regards,

Northwest Baltimore Partnership

cc: Senator Cheryl Kagan

NWBP Steering Committee Members:

@TheHouse - Pastor Troy Randall
Baltimore City Department of Planning - Mikah Zaslou
Baltimore County Community Planning - Ngone Seye Diop
Baltimore County Executive’s Office of Community Engagement - Michelle Bernstein
CHAI - Lisa Budlow
Cylburn Arboretum Friends - Patricia Foster

Fulton Bank - Devorah Livni
LifeBridge Health - Martha Nathanson
Manna Bible Baptist Church - Pastor Michael A. Gaines, Sr.
Park Heights Renaissance - Yolanda Jiggetts
Greater Baltimore Chamber of Commerce - Barry Nabozny
PNC Bank - Austin Merritt