



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter  
In Favor of SB3 - Facilities - Disabilities, Juveniles, Behavioral Health,  
and Health Care - Safety Plans  
Before the Senate Finance Committee  
On February 3, 2022**

**Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Esteemed Members of the  
Committee:**

**Thank you for the opportunity to address you regarding Senate Bill 3. This bill is an important measure to protect some of the most vulnerable members of our community. In 2021, both houses unanimously passed Senate Bill 96 requiring all “behavioral health program[s] establish and implement a safety plan for the safety of the individuals served.” This bill was a recognition that having a detailed and documented plan was essential to ensuring the wellbeing of all those being served.**

**Senate Bill 3 simply ensures that those plans will be up-to-date, relevant, and regularly improved in order to keep up with best practices. It also expands the provision to residential centers and group homes that serve juveniles and persons with disabilities.**

**My intention with this bill is to improve the relationship between the neighborhood and facility residents. We know that the most effective path to rehabilitation is reintegration. This bill will help erase the stigma associated with child offenders and work to re-establish comroderity in our communities, to the benefit of all people.**



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**By requiring various organizations serving vulnerable individuals to reevaluate their safety protocols at least every 5 years, this bill holds applicable organizations to similar standards set by the federal government. Senate Bill 3 will therefore protect the safety of vulnerable individuals without imposing excessive or unreasonable administrative demands on the centers providing the services.**

**A number of neighborhood presidents have signed onto a letter expressing their support of this bill. With their urging in mind, I ask this committee to give a favorable report on Senate Bill 3. Thank you.**

**Respectfully,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill P. Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jill P. Carter**