

DR. JAY JALISI
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

Environment and Transportation
Committee

Subcommittees
Local Government and Bi-County
Agencies
Natural Resources, Agriculture,
and Open Space



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**Testimony of Delegate Dr. Jay Jalisi
Before the Economic Matters Committee**

**In Support of HB-1329
Suicide Treatment Improvements Act
March 7, 2022 - 2:00 pm**

Madam Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and esteemed members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

I come before you to testify in support of my bill HB-1329, the **Suicide Treatment Improvements Act**, today

This bill proposes that the Maryland Department of Health provide training for employees who encounter someone who is suicidal or has attempted suicide previously. This includes suicide hotline counselors, mental health facility employees, and police officers who may respond to calls involving suicides. Certain employees are to receive training on how to counsel a suicide person through trauma-informed care and maintain strict guidelines of care to avoid re-traumatization and any sort of mental, emotional, psychological, or physical abuse.

The last 2 years have been very challenging for everyone, but especially for those struggling with mental illnesses. In June 2020, a national survey discovered that 40% of adults were struggling with mental health and substance abuse – and a vast number of them are our young adults.

I believe that it is responsible and prudent to invest in the wellbeing of residents living with mental illnesses, and my bill aims to do just that.

For these reasons, I urge you to support HB-1329, and I request a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a yellow background, reading "Jay Jalisi".

Delegate Dr. Jay Jalisi