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BILL NO.: Senate Bill 94

TITLE: Public Health – Maryland Suicide Fatality Review Committee

SPONSOR: Senator Eckardt

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 30, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill – Public Health – Maryland Suicide Fatality Review Committee. This legislation would establish a committee to identify and address factors contributing to suicide deaths and implement change to improve mental health.

Many communities throughout Maryland have faced significant setbacks and tragedies over the last few years. With this, the State has seen high rates of reported poor mental health and increased incidents of suicide among many populations. This has resulted in an enhanced push, on top of an already pressing need, for greater and more equitable access to mental health services. It is vital that all residents have affordable care at their disposal to protect themselves and those around them. A centralized working group will help the State increase access to care by identifying the factors that have contributed to suicides and addressing these issues head on.

Senate Bill 94 creates a committee in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health tasked to identify and address the factors contributing to suicide, and facilitate change to prevent further instances of related death. This will give residents the tools they need to protect themselves and others from harm. Additionally, this work will provide guidance to local governments by identifying and sharing potential points of intervention for the prevention of suicide. This legislation has the ability to save the lives of Marylanders in all communities throughout the State.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 94. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.