



Testimony on Senate Bill 94

Maryland Suicide Fatality Review Committee

House Health & Government Operations Committee
March 30, 2022

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Association of Youth Service Bureaus (MAYSB) respectfully requests that you give Senate Bill 94 a favorable report, establishing a suicide review committee for the State of Maryland.

Review teams are currently utilized in many local jurisdictions for domestic violence, child fatality, and infant fatality, and by state organizations as well. Teams are typically comprised of a coroner/medical examiner, fire department, hospital, law enforcement agency, local or state governmental agencies, the state attorney's office, the state or local public defender's office, the corrections, mental health, and substance use provider, school, EMT, or any other person or entity who possesses records or information about the person. Including all these providers provides team members with a deeper understanding of how we can work together to decrease the number of suicides in our state. All information used during the discussions is deemed strictly confidential.

The benefits of initiating a state-wide suicide fatality review committee are many. Fatality review teams examine suicides on a comprehensive case-by-case basis to better understand how and why people die from suicide, determine gaps, or lapses in service, understand practices in systems that need improvement, and study trends in current data and barriers to safety. Most importantly, the team will use the findings to improve people's health and safety and prevent more deaths.

I respectfully request that you give SB94 a favorable report and establish a Suicide Fatality Review Committee for the State of Maryland and its residents.

Respectfully Submitted:

Liz Park, PhD
MAYSB Chair
lpark@greenbeltmd.gov