



**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE**

**SENATE BILL 587 – DIVISION OF PAROLE AND PROBATION - DUTIES - OFFENDERS UNDER SUPERVISION (PAROLE AND PROBATION PERFORMANCE ACT)**

**Sponsor – Senator McCray, et al**

**February 24, 2022**

**DONALD C. FRY  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

**Position: Support**

Senate Bill 587 requires the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) to examine and review homicides involving offenders who are supervised by the division and to advise the Secretary on policies and programs to prevent such heinous acts. It also requires the Division to submit a report to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and House Judiciary Committee on (1) DPP activities that are intended to reduce the number of murders involving supervised offenders; (2) actions taken to examine and review murders, including policy and program recommendations made to the Secretary; and (3) the number of supervised offenders who were shooting victims, homicide victims, or charged with or identified as suspects in specified crimes.

The level of violence in the state, and in particular Baltimore City, is unacceptable and substantive changes are required to improve public safety, protect our citizens, and ensure economic vitality and competitiveness. For these reasons, improving public safety has been identified by the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) as a key economic development and public safety issue that needs to be urgently addressed. The GBC has recommended a two-pronged approach to reduce violent crime. The first prong addresses crime control through programs in areas of improved policing, better technology, and other enhanced public safety initiatives.

The GBC strongly advocates that a second prong – crime prevention – be instituted simultaneously with crime control efforts. It is critically important to address the root societal causes of crime with programs that address poverty, lack of employment, need for workforce and job training programs, an increase in after-school programs etc. The GBC maintains that these types of initiatives must be initiated with the same weight afforded crime control strategies.

Public safety is an essential component to a thriving economy. By requiring the Division to evaluate the data related to murders and to develop strategies to reduce these deadly acts, we are creating another avenue to address violent crime and to limit its occurrence. The additional examination and review of supervised offenders involved in homicides by the Division of Parole and Probation is an excellent way to reduce violent criminal activity.

**For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on House Bill 587.**

*The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.*

**GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

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