

January 23, 2023

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support Senate Bill 148 – Victim Services Programs – Supplementing Federal Funding and Support (Victim Services Stabilization Act)

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

We at the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center write in favor of the passage of Senate Bill 148. The Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding assists in treating patients that are victims of violence in our communities.

As you may be aware, domestic violence is a serious problem that affects millions of people across the United States. The University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center's Comprehensive Forensic Nursing Services Program provides 24/7 medical forensic care for victims of violence. Our program also helps foster collaboration and cooperation among departments, agencies and stakeholders in Anne Arundel County and throughout Maryland. We work tirelessly to provide support and services to victims of violence, and this funding is essential for providing the necessary resources and services to survivors, as well as providing personnel training. A lack of continuity in funding of this program may result in an instability in services.

We appreciate the committee's attention to this very important issue that touches many of our constituents. We will make ourselves available for any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Diane Croghan
Vice President for Community Engagement and
Chief of Staff

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