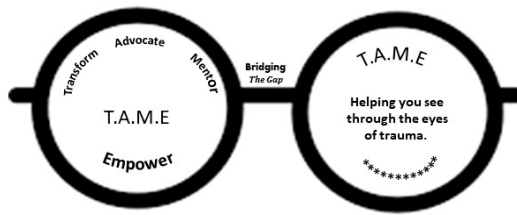


**TAME on SB 0598.pdf**

Uploaded by: Adrian Muldrow

Position: FAV



T.A.M.E supports SB 0598 because we believe that without the proper resources, we fail programs by not giving them what they need to serve the most impacted the best.

T.A.M.E  
Transformative Advocacy Mentoring Empower  
[www.tame1.org](http://www.tame1.org)

**testimony on SB598 2-22-23.pdf**

Uploaded by: Andrea LeWinter

Position: FAV



## Testimony in **Support** of

### Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund - Appropriation

#### **SB598**

Executive Director Karen Herren  
Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence;  
Co-Chair of the Maryland Violence Prevention Coalition

February 22, 2023

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence is a statewide, grassroots organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries throughout the state of Maryland. **We urge the committee for a FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 598 to increase to \$40,000,000 the annual appropriation that the Governor is required to include in the budget bill for the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program fund.**

In 2018, The Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund (VIPP) was heralded as a bipartisan initiative with broad based community and legislative support. When Governor Hogan defunded VIPP in 2019, Maryland fell behind in funding and supporting proven violence prevention strategies. In response, the Maryland legislature voted overwhelmingly in 2020 to guarantee funding for the program, with support from a broad coalition that included law enforcement agencies. Unfortunately, Governor Hogan subsequently vetoed this important bi-partisan legislation. In 2021, the Maryland General Assembly successfully overrode the Governor's veto and passed the mandate for a minimum \$3 million appropriations. It has been next to impossible to determine whether and how the administering agency, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim's Services, has allocated these funds.

Meanwhile, gun violence in Maryland has continued to claim hundreds of lives, causing devastating injuries and trauma, and costing the state an estimated [\\$10.5 billion](#) per year according to Everytown for Gun Safety. Effective violence reduction requires a sustained public health approach over time. Yet, prevention efforts are often treated as pilot projects and funded only 1-2 years, which significantly limits their impact and

sustainability. To change the course of violence in Maryland, we need a commitment to a longer term and more strategic view on sustaining prevention efforts. We had hoped that the initial \$3 million would help set the stage for more robust funding moving forward, but we simply cannot wait for that data in light of the obvious delays in distribution and the increases in gun violence.

Due to a historical lack of investment, systemic racism, and discriminatory practices, many neighborhoods with high levels of violence routinely face multiple compounding traumas. These factors, including residential and economic segregation, limited availability or access to quality jobs, and lack of safe and affordable housing, create community conditions that foster gun violence. Historically, the distribution of funding and other government resources has strongly favored law enforcement efforts that aim to reduce community violence at the expense of investing in community-led programs that have a proven track record of reducing violence when appropriately supported.

For as long as there has been community violence, there have been homegrown peacemakers. Community Violence Intervention (CVI) workers can include concerned parents, faith-based leaders, civil rights activists, previously incarcerated individuals, and survivors of violence who have risked their lives to save others. CVI workers leverage their credibility to develop relationships with community members and groups that might cause violence with the goal of preventing its spread and building peace in a community.

One promising strategy to reduce gun violence specifically focuses on reaching high-risk individuals who have been recently admitted to a hospital for treatment of a serious violent injury. This strategy, referred to as a Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP), is built upon the premise that the strongest risk factor for violent injury is a history of previous violent injury, with the chances of injury recidivism as high as 45% within the first five years.<sup>1</sup> In fact, a previous violent injury makes future death from violent injury nearly twice as likely, and being the victim of violence also significantly increases the chances of a person becoming a perpetrator of violence.<sup>2</sup> Hospitalization for a serious injury presents a unique “teachable moment” when an individual may be open to positive intervention.<sup>3</sup> Oftentimes, HVIPs leverage credible messengers—individuals in good standing with their community who typically have been personally impacted by

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<sup>1</sup> J. Purtle et al., “Hospital-based Violence Intervention Programs Save Lives and Money,” *J. Trauma Acute Care Surg.* 75, no. 2 (2013): 331–333.

<sup>2</sup> Jeffrey B. Bingenheimer, Robert T. Brennan, and Felton J. Earls, “Firearm Violence, Exposure and Serious Violent Behavior,” *Science* 308 (2005): 1323–1326.

<sup>3</sup> Rebecca Cunningham et al., “Before and After the Trauma Bay: The Prevention of Violent Injury among Youth,” *Ann Emerg. Med.* 53 (2009): 490–500, <http://nnhvip.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/After-the-trauma-bay.pdf>; see also SB Johnson et al., “Characterizing the Teachable Moment: Is an Emergency Department Visit a Teachable Moment for Intervention Among Assault-injured Youth and Their Parents?,” *Pediatr. Emerg. Care* 23 (2007): 553–559.

violence—to meet survivors at bedside during a vulnerable time in their life and offer them resources with the mission to decrease the likelihood of re-injury or retaliation.<sup>4</sup> This approach has been shown to stop the revolving door of violent injury seen in too many American hospitals and trauma centers.<sup>5</sup>

These are just a few of the examples of how solid funding in this arena can help turn the tide of gun violence in the state. **MPGV and MVPC urge the committee to vote FAVORABLY on SB 598 increasing the funding for these vital programs.**

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<sup>4</sup> William Wical, Joseph Richardson, and Che Bullock, "A Credible Messenger: The Role of the Violence Intervention Specialist in the Lives of Young Black Male Survivors of Violence, *Violence and Gender* 7, no. 2 (June 2020):66-69, <http://doi.org/10.1089/vio.2019.0026>.

<sup>5</sup> Carnell Cooper, Dawn M. Eslinger, and Paul D. Stolley, "Hospital-based violence intervention programs work," *J Trauma* 61, no. 3 (2006): 534-540.

**SB598\_SenCarterTestimonyFINAL.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jill Carter

Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter  
In favor of SB598 - Maryland Violence Intervention and  
Prevention  
Program Fund - Appropriation  
Before Budget and Taxation  
Committee on February 22, 2023**

**Mr. Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:**

**Senate Bill 598 increases the annual appropriation for violence intervention and prevention in the state of Maryland to \$40 million. This bill would ensure reliable and sustainable funding for evidence-based public health approaches to prevent gun violence in our state.**

**Amid the global pandemic, [homicides increased 35 percent](#) [1]. Today, gun violence *remains* the leading cause of premature death for Black men, as well as the number two cause of premature death for Latino men and Black women. [2] It is also the leading killer of our youth in the state of Maryland.**

[1] *Vital Signs: Changes in Firearm Homicide and Suicide Rates — United States, 2019–2020* - May 13, 2022 <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/firearm-deaths/index.html>

[2] CDC Underlying Cause of Death Report, 1999-2020  
<https://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/datarequest/D76;jsessionid=4D13A12C941C066443D77D1333EC>



**We are here because we can not — and must not — hide from the harsh truth: Gun violence is ravaging communities around the country, and here at home. Every day, families experience first-hand the devastation gunfire brings. In Maryland, each year an average of 743 people die, and another 1,363 people are wounded by guns. Beyond the tragedy of each life lost, this violence costs our state approximately \$5.7 billion annually. Gun violence is a public health issue that is in need of a public health approach.**

**Senate Bill 598 would support steady and adequate funding for evidence-based violence intervention programs. These programs are evidence-based models such as community and hospital programs focused on directly intervening in interpersonal or group conflict, negotiating ceasefires, stopping retaliatory violence, and shifting neighborhood cultural norms.**

**The success of these programs has been proven around the country, and directly in Maryland. Peer-reviewed research at the Shock Trauma VIP, published in the Journal of Trauma, shows the program reduces the risk of repeat injury in patients from 36% to 5%; reduces the risk of violent retaliation and subsequent conviction of a violent crime four-fold, and increases employment levels in participants from 20% to 82%.**

[1] *Vital Signs: Changes in Firearm Homicide and Suicide Rates — United States, 2019–2020* - May 13, 2022 <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/firearm-deaths/index.html>

[2] CDC Underlying Cause of Death Report, 1999-2020  
<https://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/datarequest/D76.jsessionid=4D13A12C941C066443D77D1333EC>

**Other jurisdictions across the country are recognizing the value of these programs and have begun to increase their funding accordingly. California has invested \$200 million in violence prevention programs and has one of the lowest firearm mortality rates in the country. The state of New York has invested \$200 million in violence prevention, and Pennsylvania has invested \$336 million in violence prevention.**

**Our state can be a leader in treating gun violence as a public health crisis and invest in the life-saving work of violence intervention. You will hear more from the panelists on how these violence intervention programs work across our state.**

**In 2018, Maryland passed legislation designed to implement the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (MD VIPP). Unfortunately, funding for this program has been inconsistent and/or nonexistent in the years since. After we created the Program, our prior Governor cut the funding in subsequent budgets, prompting several years of back and forth with our General Assembly, during which the programs on the ground were left underfunded and looking for funding elsewhere. At the same time, we know that the demand is much higher than our ask: Baltimore City is using \$50 million dollars in temporary ARPA funds for community violence intervention, and Prince George’s County \$3 million. This sets up a fiscal cliff and we need a long-term solution.**

[1] *Vital Signs: Changes in Firearm Homicide and Suicide Rates — United States, 2019–2020* - May 13, 2022 <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/firearm-deaths/index.html>

[2] CDC Underlying Cause of Death Report, 1999-2020  
<https://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/datarequest/D76;jsessionid=4D13A12C941C066443D77D1333EC>

**Given the life-saving success of these programs, the creation of MD VIPP was a strong first step in expanding the scope of these proven interventions. However, consistent, and predictable funding is extremely important for hiring and retaining staff, and long-term program success.**

**For these reasons, I urge the committee to give a favorable report on Senate Bill 589. Thank you.**

**Sincerely,**



**Jill P. Carter, Esq.**

[1] *Vital Signs: Changes in Firearm Homicide and Suicide Rates — United States, 2019–2020* - May 13, 2022 <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/firearm-deaths/index.html>

[2] CDC Underlying Cause of Death Report, 1999-2020  
<https://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/datarequest/D76;jsessionid=4D13A12C941C066443D77D1333EC>

# **SB598 VIPP Center for Hope FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Joyce Lombardi

Position: FAV



Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund – Appropriation  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee – February 22, 2023  
Testimony of Adam Rosenberg, Executive Director, LifeBridge Health Center for Hope and  
Freedom Lisa Jones, Director of Community Violence Intervention, Center for Hope  
Position: **SUPPORT**

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We write in SUPPORT of SB598, which would provide critical sustained and adequate funding violence Intervention and prevention programs across the state.

Center for Hope, a subsidiary of LifeBridge Health, is a comprehensive violence intervention program that provides trauma-informed crisis intervention and prevention services to over 6,000 patients and community members each year who have experienced domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and community/gun violence.

Urban gun violence is a preventable public health disease that we treat through an evidence-based nexus of four interconnected programs. In FY 22, 1) our hospital response teams at Sinai Hospital and Grace Medical Center provided crisis response and intensive case management bedside to 425 violence and 61 gunshot survivors, during the critical weeks when patients are vulnerable to re-injury or expected to retaliate 3) our Safe Streets sites (which are now 6) interacted with 600 community members and mediated 260 disputes, and saw fewer or, in one catchment area, zero shootings for an entire year; 3) Our Kujichagalia Center provided life skills and workforce support to 30 gunshot patients 4) Our PAAVE (Pathways to Advocacy Against Violence Every day) program provided trauma-sensitive case management, mental health and meaningful referrals to 74 children and families who experienced or witnessed a homicide or a near-fatal incident. Our connected programs have helped patients and their families heal from the pain and trauma of their injuries, avoid re-injury, stop the cycle of retaliatory violence, improve their lives and make the community safer.

VIPP funding, however, has been inconsistent. For example, Kujichagulia's FY19 VIPP money was cut. There have been inconsistent VIPP funding notices since, including FY2024 VIPP funds. This makes it hard to retain or add qualified staff. Additional VIPP funding would allow us to, e.g., provide 24/7 coverage by our Hospital Response Team at Grace Medical Center; provide clients relocation assistance away from dangerous situations/neighborhoods; and provide workforce development. It would also help other groups across the state start or expand violence prevention services, which is critical for all Marylanders.

We request a FAVORABLE report for SB598.

Adam Rosenberg, Esq., Executive Director, Center for Hope  
[arosenberg@lifebridgehealth.org](mailto:arosenberg@lifebridgehealth.org) (410) 469-4664

Freedom Lisa Jones, Director of Community Violence Intervention  
[LJones7@lifebridgehealth.org](mailto:LJones7@lifebridgehealth.org)

# **SB598 HAVI Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kyle Fischer

Position: FAV



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Maryland General Assembly- Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of support for SB 598 Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund

February 22, 2023

Chair Guzzone and the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) is pleased to support SB 598 “Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund– Appropriation.” This bill would ensure reliable and sustainable funding for evidence-based public health approaches to prevent gun violence in our state. We respectfully ask that your committee provide a favorable report for this important legislation.

The HAVI represents a national network of hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIPs). HVIPs use innovative and effective patient-focused strategies to break the cycle of violence and reduce rates of repeat injury. Founded in 2009, the HAVI represents 50 programs across the United States. In fact, the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center Violence Intervention Program was one of our founding members, with UM Capital Region Health, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Lifebridge Health, and Youth Advocate Programs subsequently joining. In addition, we are helping to launch and training staff in several early stage programs.

Our programs provide services to violently injured individuals beginning in the hospital and extending care after discharge and into the community. Evaluations of HVIPs have repeatedly demonstrated that integrating these services into hospital trauma centers and emergency departments corresponds with reductions in repeat injuries and increases in multiple measures of long-term health and wellbeing, such as treatment for traumatic stress.

The success of these programs has been proven directly in Maryland. Peer-reviewed research on the Shock Trauma VIP, published in the Journal of Trauma, shows the program reduces the risk of repeat injury from 36% to 5%; reduces the risk of violent retaliation and subsequent conviction of a violent crime four-fold, and increases employment levels in participants from 20% to 82%.

Given the success of these programs, the creation of Maryland's Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund (VIPF) was a strong first step in expanding the scope of these proven interventions. However, consistent and predictable funding is extremely important for

program success. The most important aspect of the care delivered through HVIPs is carried out by frontline individuals who are trained in violence prevention and hold deep roots in the communities they serve. Many of these workers have been previously injured by gunshot wounds and have made the physical and mental recovery that allows them to help injured patients from the unique perspective and understanding others do not hold. These violence prevention professionals act as the connection between patients and the greater health and social services system in Maryland. They are truly the most important members of the care team.

When the VIPP was established, we were delighted at the opportunity to scale-up our workforce of violence prevention professionals. The initial round of funding helped launch new programs. A subsequent infusion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars laid the groundwork for a comprehensive violence intervention ecosystem in our state. However, the ARPA dollars are a time-limited infusion, setting up a looming fiscal cliff that requires action from the General Assembly.

We believe SB 598 makes valuable improvements to Maryland's VIPP Fund to save lives and ensure safety in our most vulnerable communities.

For these reasons, we ask that the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee provide a favorable report on SB 598 Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Fischer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kyle" and last name "Fischer" clearly distinguishable.

Kyle Fischer, MD, MPH  
Policy Director  
The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI)  
KyleF@TheHAVI.org



**SB0598\_CC\_Klingenmaier\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lisa Klingenmaier

Position: FAV



## **Senate Bill 598 Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund – Appropriation**

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
February 22, 2023

### **Support**

**Catholic Charities of Baltimore supports SB 598**, which increases the annual appropriation for the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund from \$3,000,000 to \$40,000,000.

Inspired by the Gospel to love, serve and teach, Catholic Charities provides care and services to improve the lives of Marylanders in need. For 100 years, Catholic Charities has accompanied Marylanders as they age with dignity, obtain empowering careers, heal from trauma and addiction, achieve economic independence, prepare for educational success and feel welcome as immigrant neighbors.

**As one of the largest human service providers in Maryland, we see every day the staggering costs of violence in our communities and have correspondingly adopted a trauma-informed approach to service provision.** Whether we are providing therapy services to a youth, teaching a Head Start student or helping an individual find employment after incarceration, we witness the impact of violence on Marylanders on a daily basis. Increasing the funding for violence prevention services in Maryland would have widespread benefits to communities across the state.

**SB 598 is a strategic investment in violence prevention models that are proven successful.**

Catholic Charities operates four Safe Streets sites, which is an evidenced-based, public health approach to violence that saves lives and dramatically reduces gun violence in communities where it has operated. Our Safe Streets colleagues are a constant presence in the neighborhoods they serve – walking the streets in bright orange shirts that read “Stop Shooting. Start Living.” Not only do they offer mediations, but they also host neighborhood gatherings, connect youth with other resources such as free school uniforms, and serve as referral source for workforce development programs. They are credible messengers in their communities, and the results are compelling: Catholic Charities sites have conducted nearly 2,000 mediations and witnessed noticeable declines in shootings in the catchment areas they serve.

Increasing the funding available for evidence-based, violence prevention programs like Safe Streets is a crucial step if we want to reduce violence in our communities. Decreasing violence decreases trauma, and reducing trauma leads to overall better health, economic and educational outcomes in our communities. The Violence Intervention and Prevention Program targets state funding to these vital public health programs, and we strongly urge additional state investment.

**On behalf of the individuals and families we work with, Catholic Charities of Baltimore appreciates your consideration, and urges the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 598.**

Submitted By: Lisa Klingenmaier, Assistant Director of Advocacy

**MD Catholic Conference\_FAV\_SB0598.pdf**

Uploaded by: MJ Kraska

Position: FAV



MARYLAND  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE

February 22, 2023

SB 598

Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund - Appropriation

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 598 would increase – from \$3.0 million to \$40.0 million – the amount of the appropriation that the Governor must include in the annual budget bill for the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund.

The Catholic Church has a strong interest in public safety and keeping communities safe. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states in response to rising violence that “[w]e have an obligation to respond. Violence – in our homes, our schools and streets, our nation and world – is destroying the lives, dignity and hopes of millions of our sisters and brothers.” To that point, the Church supports legislation that strengthens public safety within our local communities.

In practice, the Conference supports legislation that works to support and enhance public safety within our communities. When community members are not in fear of their lives, they can live up to their God-given potential and enrich the world around them. Every person has a right to life, and the Conference will continue to work to combat violence and promote a culture of peace.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and respectfully urges a **favorable** report for Senate Bill 598.

# **SB0598 - Maryland Violence Intervention Prevention**

Uploaded by: Nilesh Kalyanaraman

Position: FAV



J. Howard Beard Health Services Building  
3 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
Phone: 410-222-7095 Fax: 410-222-7294  
Maryland Relay (TTY): 711  
www.aahealth.org

**Nilesh Kalyanaraman, MD, FACP**  
**Health Officer**

**2023 SESSION**  
**Written Testimony**

**BILL NO:** SB0598  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**POSITION:** Letter of Support  
**TITLE:** Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund --  
Appropriation

**BILL ANALYSIS:**

SB0598 alters the annual appropriation that the Governor is required to include in the budget bill for the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund from \$3,000,000 to \$40,000,000.

**POSITION RATIONALE:**

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health supports SB0598 as the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (VIP) supports the effective violence reduction strategies, specifically gun violence, through evidence-based and evidence-informed health programs. In 2019, Anne Arundel County declared gun violence as a public health issue and has since established the Gun Violence Intervention Team (GVIT) as a demonstration of the county's commitment to decreasing gun violence. According to the Anne Arundel County Department of Health's 2022 Report Card, suicide comprised 59% of all gun deaths and homicides were 40% of all gun deaths over the past five years.

Increasing funds for the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program is critical to the successful implementation of Anne Arundel County's efforts to decrease gun violence which includes establishing a Violence Interruption Program (VIP). Cure Violence Global (CVG), a national organization with expertise in evidence-based violence interruption programs, conducted an assessment in Annapolis to determine whether and how a VIP should operate in Annapolis to address the increase in gun violence injuries and homicide. Their recommendation for 4 to 5 violence interruption sites in Annapolis is now awaiting implementation as we search for funding. Based on other programs that have successfully implemented the CVG model, annual costs after implementation would be approximately \$700K-\$800K per year for a pilot program with additional funds needed in subsequent years to expand the program to all

sites identified in Annapolis. Additionally, other communities disproportionately affected by gun violence in Anne Arundel County are being evaluated for violence intervention programs.

According to the American Public Health Association (APHA), gun violence is the leading cause of premature death in the United States resulting in more than 38,000 deaths and approximately 85,000 injuries each year. Moreover, gun violence costs the United States \$280 billion annually as these costs are associated with various factors such as emergency transportation, work loss, medical care, and decreased quality of life. Data shows that gun deaths and injuries cost Maryland \$10.5 billion each year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recognized violence as an urgent public health problem that affects people from all stages of life with physical, emotional, and economic consequences. Healthy People 2030 included Violence Prevention as one of the leading objectives for the U.S., noting that children who experience violence are at risk for long-term physical, behavioral, and mental health problems.

Violence intervention programs have been shown to be an effective method in reducing violence in communities. Research shows that a violence interruption program in South Bronx, New York was associated with a 63 percent decrease in gun shooting victimization and research also shows that a violence interruption program in Richmond, California was associated with reductions in firearm violence with 55% fewer deaths and hospital visits, and 43% fewer crimes. Moreover, states invested with considerable and consistent funds for evidence-based violence intervention programs have demonstrated cost savings. In Massachusetts, firearm-related activity decreased by 22%, gang-related criminal activity decreased by 31%, and nonfatal shootings also declined by 61%. Reports from Massachusetts have found that violence intervention programs save the state at least \$15 million per year. In Connecticut, violence prevention programs have resulted in reductions in shootings which has yielded millions in cost savings.

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health supports SB0598 as increased funding for violence intervention and prevention programs can decrease gun violence, decrease expenditures attributed to violence, and potentially yield millions of dollars in cost savings for the state of Maryland.

**Sources:**

- <http://goccp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/vipp/>
- <https://www.aahealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/aahealthreportcard2022.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/index.html#:~:text=Violence%20is%20an%20urgent%20public,can%20be%20safe%20and%20healthy.>
- <https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/gun-violence>
- [https://www.apha.org/-/media/Files/PDF/factsheets/200221\\_Gun\\_Violence\\_Fact\\_Sheet.ashx](https://www.apha.org/-/media/Files/PDF/factsheets/200221_Gun_Violence_Fact_Sheet.ashx)
- <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/violence-prevention>
- <https://everystat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Gun-Violence-in-Maryland-1.pdf>
- <https://johnjayrec.nyc/2017/10/02/cvinsobronxeastny/>
- <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdfplus/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305288>
- <https://files.giffords.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Investing-in-Intervention-02.14.18.pdf>
- <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/23dsp/html/dspb.html>

# **SB 598 Letter of Information.pdf**

Uploaded by: Helene Grady

Position: INFO





WES MOORE  
*Governor*

ARUNA MILLER  
*Lieutenant Governor*

HELENE GRADY  
*Acting Secretary*

MARC L. NICOLE  
*Deputy Secretary*

## **SENATE BILL 598 Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund - Appropriation (J. Carter)**

### **STATEMENT OF INFORMATION**

**DATE: February 22, 2023**

**COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation Committee**

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** SB 598 mandates an annual appropriation of \$40 million in general funds to the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund (VIPP). The VIPP mandate is currently \$3 million in general funds annually, as established in Chapter 17 of 2021.

**EXPLANATION:** The purpose of the VIPP program is to support effective violence reduction strategies, specifically gun violence, through evidence-based or evidence-informed health programs. Evidence-based and evidence-informed health programs are those programs or initiatives that are developed and evaluated through scientific research and data collection and use public health principles that demonstrate measurable positive outcomes in preventing gun violence. The FY 2024 Governor's Allowance includes \$3 million in general funds for the VIPP fund, and this legislation would increase the amount of mandated general funds for the VIPP Program Fund from \$3 million to \$40 million annually.

Since FY 2020, state support for the VIPP fund has grown from \$1.8 million to \$3 million. In the past four years, the average annual expenditure of VIPP funds is just over \$1 million. Recent spending trends indicate that the current level of funding provided for VIPP is greater than the current expenditure levels. In fact, during the 2021 legislative session the Department of Legislative Services reduced all the general funds in VIPP due to a significant fund balance in the program. Increasing mandated VIPP funding would not guarantee that all funding would be expended in that fiscal year.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is charged with submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually and strives to create a structurally balanced budget, in which the growth in spending is less than the growth in revenues. In light of current economic uncertainty and the potential for a downturn, the Department urges caution in passing legislation significantly expanding State required expenditures. State government must be intentional, disciplined, and strategic with its allocation of State funding to ensure maximum impact toward priority outcomes.

**General Fund Structural Budget Outlook, Fiscal 2024 – 2028 (\$ millions)**

	<b>Est. 2024</b>	<b>Est. 20235</b>	<b>Est. 2026</b>	<b>Est. 2027</b>	<b>Est. 2028</b>
<b>Structural Balance</b>	\$337	\$232	\$263	\$529	\$1,113
<b>Adjusted for Blueprint</b>				-\$963	-\$1,207

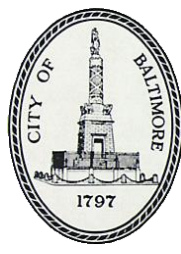
Department of Legislative Services, January 2023 Fiscal Briefing

For additional information, contact Marc Nicole at  
(410) 260-7288 or [marc.nicole@maryland.gov](mailto:marc.nicole@maryland.gov)

**SB0598-BT-LOI.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: INFO



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB 0598**

February 22, 2023

**TO:** Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** Senate Bill 598 – Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund - Appropriation

**POSITION: Letter of Information**

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration provides the below information regarding Senate Bill 598.

SB 598 would increase the annual minimum appropriation for the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (VIPP) Fund from \$3 million to \$40 million, while removing the current annual appropriation ceiling of \$10 million. The \$40 million investment was based on recommendations from national experts in violence prevention. This program has historically been underfunded, and the expanded commitment to VIPP infrastructure would be beneficial toward ensuring adequate support for violence intervention and prevention efforts across the state, particularly in Baltimore City and other areas disproportionately affected by violence.

Full state investment is critical to the ongoing stability of local violence intervention programs, which are put at risk by overreliance on one-time ARP funding. Nationally, state investments in Community Violence Intervention (CVI) have increased from just five states spending \$60 million in 2017 to 15 states investing nearly \$700 million in 2021; California's Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program (CalVIP) announced a record \$156 million in funding for violence intervention grants in 2022, and three states (Connecticut, Illinois, and Wyoming) have set funding levels at over 0.1% of their total budget. In Maryland, where the annual direct economic cost of gun violence is an estimated \$1.2 billion, it is imperative to follow the national trend of increased state commitment to community violence prevention.