



# The H.O.P.E. Academy

## Huber Child Development Center

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March 6, 2023

Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Guzzone:

The H.O.P.E. Academy and the Huber Child Development Center would like to express our strong support for Senate Bill 874, which would establish Community Safety Works as an ongoing program within the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Established as a budget initiative within the Department, Community Safety Works has already provided valuable assistance to nonprofit organizations, businesses and local governments through targeted investments in crime prevention that impact community safety.

The H.O.P.E Academy is located in Baltimore City. The rate of crime in the 21213 zip code is 66.29 per 1,000 residents during a standard year. Therefore, your chance of being a victim of crime in 21213 may be as high as 1 in 11 in the community in which The H.O.P.E Academy is located. 2 years ago, the front of HOPE Academy was ran into by a person who had stolen a car and was on the run. Fortunately, no one was hurt. All too frequently, as we have seen on the news, school are the target of many violent acts. At The H.O.P.E Academy, we would like to do all that we can to make sure that we do not fall victim to any malicious intents. Also, as a positive staple in our community, we occasionally allow other community organizations to use our facilities and we would like them to be safe as well.

This is why we are grateful to have received funding in the past to increase our community and security needs such as cameras, bollards, basketball goals and signage.

This is why we would like to request a favorable report on SB874 to continue this valuable program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rosella S. Braxton, Finance Director