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MAYOR

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SB 487

March 9, 2023

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

RE: Senate Bill 487 – Criminal Procedure - Violation of Pretrial or Posttrial Condition by Incarcerated Person - Victim Contact

POSITION: Support

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 487.

SB 487 amends existing Maryland Code § 5-213.1ⁱ which protects victims from being contacted or harassed in any way by an incarcerated person in violation of pretrial or posttrial conditions. This legislation takes an important step in protecting victims by extending protections to include incarcerated individuals and prohibiting violation of any pretrial or posttrial condition.

Victims of criminal offenses are left in a vulnerable state often facing physical, emotional and mental concerns following an incident. In many cases, these individuals do not have the resources or luxury to remove themselves from the circumstances that they were in prior to the traumatic experience of crime. The ability to intimidate and continue contact grossly reduces the likelihood that the victim can begin their recovery. In some cases, repeated contact with a victim leads to cyclical and retaliatory crime that only further destroys our communities.

We must do everything possible to protect victims from contact, harassment or abuse – especially with respect to incarcerated individuals who violate pretrial or posttrial conditions.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 487.

ⁱ <https://law.justia.com/codes/maryland/2017/criminal-procedure/title-5/subtitle-2/section-5-213.1/>