

JACQUELINE T. ADDISON
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

Environment and
Transportation Committee

Subcommittees

Natural Resources, Agriculture,
and Open Space

Motor Vehicles and Transportation

Local Government and
Bi-County Agencies



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 317
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3551 · 301-858-3551
800-492-7122 Ext. 3551
Jackie.Addison@house.state.md.us

Judiciary Committee

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

House Bill 974 – Public Safety – Gun Violence Victim Relocation Program – Establishment

Good afternoon esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Delegate Addison, and I stand before you today to wholeheartedly endorse HB 974 Public Safety- Gun Violence Victim Relocation Program- Establishment. This bill would create and fund the Gun Violence Victim Relocation Program in Maryland. As you all are aware, gun violence is an issue of paramount concern in our state. Baltimore city came off one of the most violent years in the 2020s with 332 fatal shootings and 687 nonfatal shootings in 2022. In Baltimore and throughout our State, we do not support gun violence victims as they process their trauma. Often we leave them forced to live in areas where they have experienced unspeakable trauma. Additionally, we know it is not uncommon for survivors of gun violence and their families to take matters into their own hands thus creating a cycle of retaliatory violence that must be disrupted.

On the first day of session, Delegate Young and I received a text message that someone had been shot in our district. I saw the location of the shooting and my heart dropped as it was the same street one of our door knockers lived on. It turned out to be him that was shot just a few doors down from his house, thankfully it was not life threatening. This young man was let out of the hospital that day and returned home to the same street he was shot on.

The fear and anxiety this young man faces is indescribable. He had to return to the area where his life was almost taken with little to no support. This is the reality of many people in similar situations. The problem is that this failure to intervene becomes the breeding ground that creates more violence, more trauma, and more strain on our criminal justice system.

This story highlights the lack of support for these victims. This gap allows the dangerous vicious cycle of retaliation that often follows incidents of gun violence to fester, and this is the need for a solution to help break it. We must intervene in these instances to wrap our arms around victims and their families because we know the victims too often turn into shooters – and we know the shooters very often are our next victims.

The Gun Violence Victim Relocation Program will help address this critical issue by providing victims of gun violence with a safe haven to escape their surroundings and start afresh. The program aims to:

JACQUELINE T. ADDISON
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

Environment and
Transportation Committee

Subcommittees

Natural Resources, Agriculture,
and Open Space

Motor Vehicles and Transportation

Local Government and
Bi-County Agencies



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 317
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3551 · 301-858-3551
800-492-7122 Ext. 3551
Jackie.Addison@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

- Provide aid and support to individuals and families who are victims of gun violence within the state, have suffered violence near their home, and demonstrate a pressing need to relocate for their safety or that of their family by facilitating their transition to a safer environment
- Provide trauma-informed care and wrap-around services to support the healing and well-being of victims and their families;
- Disrupt the cycle of retaliatory violence by offering aid and support to those impacted by gun violence;
- Establish the Gun Violence Victim Relocation Program Fund as a non-lapsing fund with interest earnings credited to it and allocate an annual appropriation in the budget bill for its operation;
- Ensure effective implementation of the program through the creation of an oversight committee or commission by the Victim Services Unit.

Victims who are eligible for this program include those who have been affected by gun violence, those who live in close proximity to the offender, and those who are in need of relocation. This program would have an oversight commission that will report annually to the governor and general assembly. This fund will ensure that the victims of gun violence have access to the resources they need to start over and rebuild their lives.

This program is a crucial step in addressing the root causes of crime and providing support to those who have been impacted by gun violence. This is an effort to make Maryland a safer place for all residents. I strongly urge a favorable report on HB 974.

Thank you for your attention.

Delegate Jackie Addison