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Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg

Before the House Ways and Means Committee

in Support of

House Bill 529

Gaming - Video Lottery Terminals - Local Impact Grants - Baltimore City

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

House Bill 529 would update the distribution of slots revenue directed to the neighborhoods around the Pimlico Race Track in the form of local impact aid.

As originally enacted, the 2007 law that first directed monies to the area around Pimlico specified that "at least 75% [of these funds are to be distributed] in a manner that is consistent with the Park Heights Master Plan."

In 2018, however, to focus spending on the neighborhoods with the highest need and where the impact would be the greatest, then Mayor Catherine Pugh increased the share of funding allocated to the Park Heights Master Plan to 85%, with the remaining 15% to be allocated to the diverse communities surrounding the Park Heights area. In the years since then, that standard has remained the benchmark. This bill would make it permanent.

The neighborhoods outside the boundaries of the Master Plan that receive this assistance include West Arlington, Gwynn Oaks, Howard Park, Glen, Fallstaff, Cross Country, Cheswolde, Mt. Washington, and Cold Spring.

I urge the committee to give HB 529 a favorable report.

February 16, 2023