

CORY V. MCCRAY  
Legislative District 45  
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

## Vote Yes on Senate Bill 820

Bill Title: Hospitals – Care of Infants After Discharge

Hearing Date: March 8, 2024

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee:

I am writing to request a **favorable vote** for **Senate Bill 820**, which mandates hospitals to provide instructions on creating a safe sleep environment for infants prior to discharge. This bill represents a crucial step forward in safeguarding the well-being of Maryland's youngest citizens.

**SB 820** outlines essential requirements for hospitals, ensuring that before discharging an infant, parents or legal guardians receive both oral and written instructions on the importance of and methods for establishing a safe sleep environment. Additionally, hospitals must establish details about the intended sleep environment at home and obtain written confirmation of the understanding of provided instructions. Additionally, hospitals are mandated to provide a list of local resources available to procure items necessary for ensuring a safe sleep environment for infants, as maintained by the Maryland Department of Health in consultation with local health officers.

The fiscal summary indicates a modest increase in MDH general fund expenditures, reflecting the costs associated with part-time staff to maintain a list of safe sleep environment resources. While the bill entails a financial commitment, the investment pales in comparison to the potential lives saved through preventive measures against sleep-related infant deaths.

The bill defines a "safe sleep environment" in alignment with AAP policy statements, encompassing essential practices such as supine sleeping, avoidance of soft bedding, and room sharing without bed sharing. By disseminating this information effectively, hospitals can

empower parents and guardians to mitigate risks associated with unsafe sleep practices, including suffocation and sudden infant death.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to support **SB 820**.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cory V. McCray  
45<sup>th</sup> District