

My name is Darlene Cain ,I strongly support HB 471/SB 575. It will help families with the support they need for counseling, medical bills, and emergency moving expenses. The reason the Bill is so important to me is because I'm an impacted mother My son Dale Graham was killed by Baltimore City Police officer October 28,2008.I had temporary custody of his two daughters. We could had benefited from counseling and help towards moving. I was very depressed and could barely work my full time job caring for patients. I needed help myself to be able to go back into a working environment. The had a hard time filling out the application due to the wording and questions asked. To the best of my ability I turned it and was denied .I applied fir a waiver and was denied twice. Being denied twice made me feel hopeless to helping my granddaughters receive counseling. They were three and six years old I could explain to them how their father died. My granddaughters found out anyway. I strongly encourage you to pass this Bill so families don't suffer or be denied assistance when it's much needed. I hear today to ask if families like who were denied over the years be grandfathered. Dale's daughters both have graduated from High School and miss their father dearly ,as I do. .Its been fifteen years we still deserve assistance.

Darlene Cain