

Brandon M. Scott, Mayor City of Baltimore

Ronald S. McFadden, Chair Board of School Commissioners

Sonja Brookins Santelises Chief Executive Officer

Testimony of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners In Support, As Amended, House Bill 1310 Baltimore City Coordinated Youth Violence Review and Response Team

March 26, 2024

The bill seeks to establish the Baltimore City Coordinated Youth Violence Review and Response Team to examine and prevent violence against youth through intensive case management. Youth are defined as being at high risk for becoming a victim of violence if they have already been the victim of gun violence that occurs after the previous meeting of the Review and Response team, a witness to gun violence, or if they are a family member of a victim of gun violence.

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners believes the legislation, as amended, aligns both with our existing MOU and with federal and state requirements for student data privacy. The Board looks forward to participating fully in the intensive case management process, and notes that the amended legislation reflects the shared intent and desire of both the Administration and BCPSS to facilitate coordination of a network of tailored, wraparound support that is not only reactive but also proactive in providing emergency responses to young people experiencing high-risk factors of being victimized by youth violence in Baltimore City.

The Board supports the Administration's push to codify the MOU currently in place, which will solidify the ability of agencies to work together on ensuring that youth who are deemed to be at high risk are able to be provided appropriate services and resources. We strongly support the underlying goal of intensive case management collaboration, and respectfully urge a favorable, with the agreed upon amendments.

Dawana Merritt Sterrette, Esq.
Director, Legislative and Government Affairs
dsterrette@bcps.k12.md.us
443-250-0190

Melissa Broome
Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs
mcbroome@bcps.k12.md.us
443-525-3038

