



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
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HB1310

March 26, 2024

TO: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 1310 – Baltimore City Coordinated Youth Violence Review and Response Team

POSITION: Support

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1310.

HB 1310 would establish a Baltimore City Coordinated Youth Violence Review and Response Team which would require various Baltimore City and State agencies to convene and discuss youth who are determined to be high risk and connect those youth and their families with services and resources.

In March 2023, Mayor Scott established Youth Violence Stat which began convening many of the same entities named in HB 1310. Through those Stat meetings, it became clear that there was a need for intensive case management services to be provided for the City's youth, particularly those at greatest risk of being a victim of violence. Existing State law does not allow for City and State agencies to share information in a manner that would allow for timely service and resource provision.

The City has an existing Child Fatality Review (CFR) Team, established in MD Code, Health - General, § 5-705, which is able to receive all records related to a child who has died in order to recommend actions to improve coordination of services and investigations among member agencies, and recommend actions within the member agencies to prevent child deaths. In performing this fatality review work, the CFR Team recognized insufficient communication between the City and State agencies who were supporting the child who had died and, in some instances, it is believed that information sharing between agencies could have prevented that child's unfortunate death. HB 1310 is requesting the ability to access and share, in a confidential setting, records among the City and State agencies to ensure that communication gaps are minimized, if not altogether eliminated, and ensure children and their families are connected to proper services and resources in order to prevent them from premature death.

The BCA worked with partner agencies to prepare a set of amendments to ensure that all proper protections are in place regarding data privacy for youth and their families. Those amendments were included in the version that crossed over from the House.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 1310.