

Testimony for HB 193 (UNFAVORABLE)

The McDonald Mandate: Stopping the Privatization of Accountability To the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Ms. McDonald, and I am a candidate for Delegate in District 45. I am writing to express my strong **UNFAVORABLE** stance on HB 193. While this bill is presented as a way to "refine procedures" and provide "equitable adjustments" for contractors, it is actually a gateway to further stripping services from our public system.

1. The Human Cost of Procurement "Refinements" (SB 742 Connection)

We cannot talk about procurement procedures without talking about the results of those procedures. In District 45, we are witnessing the fallout of a vendor-first model. As highlighted in **SB 742 (The Protecting People with Disabilities Act)**, we have a system where vulnerable Marylanders are being procedurally disenrolled and stripped of their lifelines. When we make it easier for state units to adjust contracts and protect vendor interests—as HB 193 seeks to do—we are prioritizing the profit of private contractors over the eligibility and care of people with developmental disabilities.

2. The Pay Gap: Vendors vs. Public Servants (HB 607 & SB 886 Connection)

It is a slap in the face to my constituents to see **HB 607** proposing salary increases for Constitutional Officers (up to \$185,000) and **SB 886** pushing for constitutional wage mandates for vendors, while the actual services in our community are being "stripped from the system." HB 193 seeks to provide "equitable adjustments" to compensate contractors for increased costs. Where is the "equitable adjustment" for the families in District 45 facing an imminent threat of homelessness? We are subsidizing the overhead of private vendors while our public staff and community

resources are left to rot.

3. Accountability, Not Adjustments

HB 193 provides more protections for *unsuccessful* offerors to get debriefings and more time for *contractors* to file claims against the state.

We do not need more protections for contractors; we need more protections for the people they are supposed to serve. My mandate for District 45 is to stop the "Jive not drive" mentality of the state—moving money around in backroom procurement deals while the community loses its grocery stores, its vocational training, and its dignity.

Conclusion

I urge this committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 193. We should not be "refining" a procurement system that is already being used to strip resources from the heart of Baltimore City. Until we can guarantee that not one more person is disenrolled due to administrative error or vendor greed, we must stop giving the system more ways to prioritize contractors over citizens.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ms. McDonald

By Authority of: Nichole McDonald for District 45 Lonetta Mason, Treasurer