

KRIS FAIR
Legislative District 3
Frederick County

Government, Labor, and
Elections Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Election Law

Local Government/Bi-County
Agencies and Administration

Chair, Maryland Legislative
LGBTQ+ Caucus

Chair Bagnall,



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony on HB 1012. I am grateful for your thoughtful consideration of this legislation and for the Committee's ongoing commitment to strengthening Maryland's public health and suicide prevention systems.

HB 1012 represents a targeted and meaningful policy improvement: it provides local public health authorities with the ability to establish suicide fatality review teams using existing resources, grounded in the expertise of the professionals closest to their communities. As discussed during the hearing, one of the most significant gaps in Maryland's current suicide-prevention framework is the absence of a legally protected local forum for agencies to share sensitive information without concern for compelled disclosure. This bill addresses that gap directly.

While a state-level suicide fatality review program does exist, it does not review every death statewide and cannot provide the depth of localized analysis needed to shape responsive community driven interventions. Local jurisdictions need the ability to examine their own data, identify actionable patterns, and implement timely, community-specific prevention strategies. The bill's framework enables that work while protecting the privacy of victims and families.

I am grateful for the constructive engagement from our local health department, statewide partners, and the Maryland Department of Health. The collaborative amendments submitted reflect our shared commitment to ensuring that this legislation is implemented thoughtfully, effectively, and with respect and sensitivity.

Please let me know if you have any questions, I would be happy to meet to discuss this further.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kris Fair".

Delegate Kris Fair
District 3, Frederick County

*Thank you for all
the support!*