

Dear Chair and Members of the Health Committee:

On behalf of the Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association, we respectfully submit this letter in support of HB 1293.

HB 1293 requires behavioral health providers that operate residential properties to take reasonable steps to ensure compliance with Maryland's existing Sex Offender Registration Act. Specifically, the bill requires providers to ask their residents about registration obligations, check the public registry, and assist with compliance when necessary.

This bill does not expand registration requirements. It does not create new criminal penalties. It simply ensures that providers who control housing placement take reasonable steps to confirm that existing law is being followed.

HB 1293 also establishes clear administrative standards, a corrective action process, and safe harbor protections for providers acting in good faith.

We believe this is a balanced approach that promotes public safety, transparency, and accountability without imposing unnecessary burdens.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1293.

Sincerely,

Elisha James Waters and Preston Waters

Residents

The Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association

443.694.5685, gdzgift.ep@gmail.com (Elisha James Waters)

443.803.3288, preston900@msn.com (Preston Waters)