

Favorable Support Testimony
HB 1107- Healing our Scars Act

- Good Morning Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison and Members of the Health Committee.
- My name is Shayla Adams-Stafford, District 5 Councilmember for the Prince George's County Council.
- I'm here today to speak in strong support for HB 1107, the Healing our Scars Act.
- This legislation is critically important to supporting survivors of domestic violence as they reclaim their sense of autonomy and identity.
- This is a real and pressing concern in Prince George's County. In 2025 alone, we had more than 7,000 Protective and Peace orders served.
- Survivors often bear physical scars of their abuse– which can negatively impact their physical and mental health.
- They are reminders of traumatic circumstances that survivors want to leave in the past. But under current Maryland law, insurance providers are not required to cover the cost of aesthetic and restorative procedures that may be necessary to treat injuries.
- This forces survivors to bear the cost on their own– which can be a daunting task as they prioritize rebuilding and maintaining stability for themselves and their families.
- They are also rebuilding their own financial independence, and these scars can become barriers to access to jobs and opportunities for economic mobility.
- We should empower our survivors with resources to support their efforts to treat and health their scars– especially when they are medically necessary or deemed essential by a licensed physician.
- I am fully in favor of HB 1107 and urge a favorable Committee report.
- Thank you all for your time and consideration.