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MAYOR

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SB 299

February 11, 2021

TO: Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 299 – Human Services – Trauma-Informed Care – Commission and Training

POSITION: **Support**

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 299.

SB 299 would establish the Commission on Trauma-Informed Care to coordinate a statewide initiative to prioritize the trauma-responsive and trauma-informed delivery of State services that impact children, youth, families, and older adults. It would require the Commission to submit its findings annually to the Governor and the General Assembly by June 30 and require certain State agencies to designate two staff members to participate in a formal course in trauma-informed care each year and work with other agency designees in work sessions.

The Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success (MOCFS) supports the work of the Baltimore Children's Cabinet, and trauma-informed care is one of the Cabinet's seven priority areas. In this work, the Children's Cabinet is focusing on destigmatizing mental health care and improving the responsiveness of trauma-informed care by more systematized collection of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and resilience factors of youth. The Commission on Trauma-Informed Care can advance and complement the ongoing work of the Baltimore Children's Cabinet by increasing statewide awareness and implementation of trauma-informed care practices.

Additionally, every program in the recreation division of Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP) provides services for youth through a trauma-informed care lens. This approach includes core leadership in Baltimore City's Cities Connecting Children to Nature initiative, which launched a Baltimore Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and provides cross-training so that outdoor providers receive trauma-informed care workshops and youth providers receive training in leading outdoor experiences in the greenspaces and parks of the City. This legislation would be an important means of addressing and ultimately healing the harms suffered by our young people through violence, poverty, and other adverse experiences. Formalized training would bolster the knowledge base and broaden the impact of the work performed by BCRP both internally, identifying and addressing the potential vicarious trauma, and externally through daily operations serving the residents of Baltimore City, neighboring counties and statewide.

The BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 299.

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