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## Testimony

### HB 872 – State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services – Membership

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB 872. This legislation would expand the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services by adding two seats for employees of the Department. It would further provide that the President of AFSCME Council 3 would appoint the two individuals. AFSCME Council 3 is the union that represents the employees of the department. The plan would be to appoint one employee who works within a facility and one employee who works in the field.

The Advisory Board exists in order to provide both input and feedback about the success or issues of programs within the department. As such, this would include programs to make sure the individuals are safe and secure and have programs that assist them in returning to positive functioning within the community.

While the Advisory Board currently has state agency managers, and representatives from the courts and community stakeholders, there is no one who is directly involved in the day-to-day provision of services. This is an important voice since it is those that are on the front lines of delivering services who are able to really see first-hand what the impacts of programs really are. This input is very valuable and key to understanding what really works.

Employees will add an important perspective to the State Advisory Board. We urge you to provide a favorable report.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.  
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.  
800.492.1996

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