



Maryland Association of
Resources for Families & Youth

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
Members, House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Geraldine Valentino-Smith

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Richard A. Tabuteau

DATE: March 10, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1558 – *Residential Treatment Centers and Facilities – Sexual Abuse and Harassment – Reporting and Prevention*

The Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY) is a statewide network of private agencies serving at-risk children and youth and advocates for a system of care in Maryland that meets the needs of children and families. MARFY is a program of Maryland Nonprofits and **supports** the passage of House Bill 1558.

House Bill 1558 proposes to make the requirements for the prevention and reporting of sexual abuse and harassment consistent across state facilities, forensic residential centers and residential treatment centers who treat children and adolescents with severe and chronic emotional disturbances. These programs and facilities must develop and implement policies and procedures on making and responding to allegations and complaints of sexual abuse or harassment and adopt a written protection plan as a part of a patient's treatment plan.

MARFY supports the development of a framework for reporting and prevention of sexual abuse and harassment that is consistent and accountable across similar facilities and programs. The provisions of House Bill 1558 reflect that objective. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
Richard A. Tabuteau
(410) 244-7000