

# **Maryland Psychological Association - Support - SB8**

Uploaded by: Brocato, Barbara

Position: FAV



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March 2, 2021

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**RE: SB 842: Workgroup to Study the Assessment, Treatment, and Available Resources for Female Youth in Contact with the Justice System.**

##### *Representatives-at-large*

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Shalena Heard, PhD

**Position: SUPPORT**

##### *Representative to APA Council*

Katherine Killeen, PhD

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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The Maryland Psychological Association (MPA), which represents over 1,100 doctoral-level psychologists from throughout the state, **supports SB 842: Workgroup to Study the Assessment, Treatment, and Available Resources for Female Youth in Contact with the Justice System.** This legislation would establish a workgroup to review how well programs in the Department of Juvenile Services meet the needs of female youth and make recommendations for improving outcomes for females in the system.

Female youth involved in the juvenile justice system commit less serious offenses (such as status offenses and supervision violations)<sup>1</sup> and yet are drawn more deeply into the juvenile justice system than their male counterparts. These high-need, low-risk female youth are often survivors of complex traumas including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, as well as other interpersonal and community violence, familial discord, and chronic mental health and general health issues<sup>1</sup>. The passage of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 presented a new opportunity to address the needs of female youth in the juvenile justice system where evidence-based and trauma-informed programming must be developed and implemented. In order for this Act to have its intended effect, developmentally and empirically sound interventions must be examined<sup>1</sup>. The workgroup proposed in SB 842 would be an important step in meeting this need.

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

##### OFFICER

Paul C. Berman, PhD

While SB 842 focuses on juvenile justice involved youth in Prince Georges County, we submit that this critical exploration would benefit juvenile justice-involved youth statewide. **Additionally, we would welcome the opportunity to take part in this critical work evaluating and improving the experience of female youth involved in the justice system, reducing recidivism, and improving outcomes by suggesting that a psychologist be included in this work group.**

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Stefanie Reeves, CAE

Thank you for considering our comments. We ask the committee for a FAVORABLE report on **SB 842**. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the MPA Executive Director, Stefanie Reeves, MA, CAE at 410-992-4258 or [exec@marylandpsychology.org](mailto:exec@marylandpsychology.org).

Sincerely,

*Esther Finglass*

Esther Finglass, Ph.D.  
President

*R. Patrick Savage Jr.*

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.  
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association  
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs

# **MAYSB - SB 842 FWA - Workgroup on Females in DJS.p**

Uploaded by: Park, Liz

Position: FWA



*"Being here for Maryland's Children, Youth, and Families"*

**Testimony submitted to Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**March 10, 2021**

**Senate Bill 842 – Workgroup to Study the Assessment, Treatment, and Available Resources for Female Youth in Contact With the Justice System**  
**Support with Amendment**

The Maryland Association of Youth Service Bureaus (MAYSB), which represents a network of Bureaus throughout the State of Maryland, supports *Senate Bill 842 - Workgroup to Study the Assessment, Treatment, and Available Resources for Female Youth in Contact With the Justice System* with one amendment to be included on the workgroup. Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs) are community-based programs that work with youth and their families to decrease the likelihood of youth involvement or re-involvement with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS).

SB 842 establishes a Workgroup to review the treatment and interventions provided to females who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

Research shows that effective community programs, like Youth Service Bureaus, are more likely than arrest or institutional confinement to facilitate the healthy development of the involved youth. Evidence-based or best practice services have proven successful in reducing recidivism in the youth who come to the juvenile justice system's attention and diverting youth from going deeper into the system. MAYSB believes that the child welfare system or mental health system is a more appropriate service for many young people who have contact with the juvenile justice system. We ask for a representative of our statewide association be included as a member of the Workgroup.

SB 842 highlights an important issue, often overlooked, of how females enter and move through the juvenile justice system. This legislation is timely and important as Maryland continues to examine and update how the juvenile justice system can better serve Maryland's youth. The Data Resource Guide 2020 for DJS indicates that of the total complaints received in 2020 (14,913), 30% were females (4,332). Seventy percent of these females were youth of color. In addition, female youth represented approximately 14% of the population of youth committed to the care and custody of DJS during FY 2020. Sixty eight percent of these females were youth of color.

Maryland has been working toward establishing a juvenile system that is in line with the research on brain development and thus developmentally informed. A developmentally informed system recognizes the need to hold youth accountable for their actions while also offering them the resources and opportunities to be rehabilitated, recognizes that youth are still maturing and that their brains are not fully developed until after age 24, and establishes a fair system to ensure that all youth receive fair and equal treatment. This bill will assist the State of Maryland in developing policies and procedures appropriate for females and in addressing the racial and ethnic disparities found in the juvenile justice system, such as those for females of color.

The amendment we request is:

On page 2 after line 20 add:

(10) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH SERVICE BUREAUS.

We request that you give SB 842 a favorable report with this amendment.

Respectfully Submitted:

Liz Park, PhD  
MAYSB Chair  
[lpark@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:lpark@greenbeltmd.gov)

**2021.03.08 MOPD Opp to SB842.pdf**

Uploaded by: Egan, Jenny

Position: UNF



## POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

BILL: SB842  
POSITION: Opposed  
DATE: March 10, 2021

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender respectfully requests that the Committee issue an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 842. While we laud Senator Benson's focus on the need for quality programming for young women and girls in the juvenile justice system, we believe the workgroup to study and develop an inventory of quality, evidence-based or promising practices proposed in both HB1187/SB853 or in SB905/HB1121 are better vehicles to achieve the desired result.

The Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC) has spent the last year researching best practices regarding the treatment of juveniles who are subject to the criminal and juvenile justice systems and identifying recommendations to limit or otherwise mitigate risk factors that contribute to juvenile contact with the criminal and juvenile justice systems. We believe this issue falls squarely under the purview of the JJRC and that existing body should be tasked with research and reporting on the assessment, treatment, and available resources for young women and girls in the juvenile justice system.

For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 842.



**SB842.INFORMATIONAL.MDRTL.L.Bogley.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bogley, Laura

Position: INFO



**Informational Statement SB842**  
**Workgroup to Study the Assessment, Treatment, and Available Resources for Female Youth**  
**In Contact With the Justice System**

Laura Bogley, JD  
Director of Legislation, Maryland Right to Life

On behalf of our chapters and members across the state of Maryland, we applaud any efforts of the state to support pregnant youth in healthy birth outcomes. However, this bill as written would likely entrust those who profit from the sale of abortions with the care and maternal outcomes of pregnant youth within the juvenile justice system. The state continues to subsidize the abortion industry without regard to the fact that greater public investment in abortion providers has increased abortion and decreased prenatal care and adoption. To save the good purposes of this bill, we urge you to exclude abortion-invested parties from participating in policy development regarding pregnant youth within the system and from eligibility for any public funding and to instead prioritize the state's interest in the life of preborn children and programs that protect the lives of both mothers and preborn children.

**PRIORITIZE PRENATAL CARE** – 58% of people in a January 2021 Marist poll said they oppose public funding for abortion. 80% said they prefer policies that support the lives of both mothers and children. Women have many more options for legitimate prenatal care and well woman care. There are 14 federally qualifying health centers for each Planned Parenthood in Maryland. The state should prioritize funding for prenatal programs that have proven successful birth outcomes, including the many pro-life medical pregnancy centers across the state.

**MORE FUNDING = LESS CARE** Planned Parenthood's business model is based on abortion, not prenatal care. **Planned Parenthood commits 41 abortions for every one prenatal care service and 133 abortions for every adoption referral. Planned Parenthood provides no pediatric care.** In their [Annual Report](#) released in January 2021, Planned Parenthood reports that the number of abortions they committed increased nearly 3% in 2019-2020 from the previous year for a record high total of 354,871 abortions. That's over 972 babies killed daily- or one every 89 seconds. In stark contrast, they report that their prenatal care and adoption referrals both dropped double digits from the previous year. Despite its claims that its primary focus is to provide health care for women, Planned Parenthood's business model is built on profiting from abortions and the exploitation of women and young girls, especially among minority communities and vulnerable populations, including incarcerated youth. Planned Parenthood offers "prenatal" services as a means to sell abortion to vulnerable women and girls facing unplanned pregnancies ([LEARN MORE](#)).

**PREGNANCY IS NOT A DISEASE** – Abortion is not healthcare. It is violence and brutality that systemically targets the poor and vulnerable and ends the lives of preborn children through suction, dismemberment or chemical poisoning. Abortion is never medically necessary and exposes women to both physical and psychological complications. Abortion has historically targeted People of Color for population control. The fact that 85% of OB/GYNs refuse to commit abortions is glaring evidence that abortion is not an essential part of women's healthcare. Women deserve better than abortion.

**For these reasons we respectfully urge you to amend SB842 to protect pregnant youth within the juvenile justice system from being preyed upon by the abortion industry by excluding abortion-invested parties from participation in policy or programs for pregnant women and girls or issue an unfavorable report. Thank you.**

**SB0842 DJS Testimony - Letter of Information.pdf**

Uploaded by: Johnston, James

Position: INFO

Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. GovernorLarry Hogan  
GovernorSam Abed  
Secretary

**Date:** 3/10/2021  
**Bill # / Title:** SB 842 - Workgroup to Study the Assessment, Treatment, and Available Resources for Female Youth in Contact With the Justice System  
**DJS Position:** Letter of Information

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) is providing information for SB 842. This bill would create a workgroup to study the needs of young women in contact with the juvenile justice system, with a focus on Prince George's County. The workgroup would include, among others, the Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Services, legislators, prosecutors, school officials, and parents from Prince George's County. The bill creates a December 1, 2021 deadline for the workgroup to report to the Governor and General Assembly on its findings and recommendations.

***DJS's State Advisory Board is already charged with reviewing programming for young women***

As detailed in the fiscal note, Section 9-238.1 of the Human Services Article requires DJS to provide females with programming to meet their specific needs, including diversion programs, community detention services, and reentry services and programs. The General Assembly amended Section 9-215 of the Human Service Article in 2017 to specifically require the DJS State Advisory Board to consult with and advise the Secretary of Juvenile Services on the treatment and programming needs of females in the juvenile justice system.

***Services for young women involved with DJS were outlined in a January 2019 report***

In response to Senate Bill 674/House Bill 721 of the 2017 session, DJS submitted a report to the General Assembly in January 2019 detailing data trends, services available for DJS-involved girls, and the way those services are delivered.<sup>1</sup>

***DJS publishes annual data and descriptions of programming, evaluations, and recidivism***

Each fiscal year, DJS publishes the Data Resource Guide, which includes:

- Recidivism data with a breakdown by gender<sup>2</sup>
- Female-specific data as to complaints, case decisions, demographics, placements and detention<sup>3</sup>
- Detailed descriptions of female-specific programming<sup>4</sup>

***The Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC) recently completed a yearlong review of the juvenile justice system***

The JJRC issued a report in January 2021 with 20 specific reform recommendations.<sup>5</sup> These recommendations are included in SB853, which is now pending consideration by the Senate. HB853 includes changes to improve the delivery of services and data collection, as well as language to extend the Council to continue researching and evaluating improvements in the juvenile justice system.

<sup>1</sup> <https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/publications/DJS-Services-DJS-Involved-Girls-Jan-2019.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/DRG/Recidivism.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/DRG/females.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/DRG/Committed-Programs.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/NoPblTabMtg/CmsnJuvRefCncl/JJRC-Final-Report.pdf>

# **SB0842 MD NARAL SUPPORT.pdf**

Uploaded by: Philip, Diana

Position: INFO



**SB0842 – Workgroup to Study the Assessment, Treatment, and Available Resources  
for Female Youth in Contact with the Justice System**

Presented to the Hon. Will Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
March 10, 2021 12:00 p.m.

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**POSITION: INFORMATION ONLY**

NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland would like to thank Senator Joanne Benson for her commitment to further the rights of women and girls in this state, and for her interest in being the lead sponsor for **SB0842 – Workgroup to Study the Assessment, Treatment, and Available Resources for Female Youth in Contact with the Justice System**.

Our organization is an advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice. As part of our efforts to protect reproductive freedom for all Marylanders, we work to ensure every individual has the right to decide if, when, and how to form their families, and to parent in good health, in safety, and with dignity. In doing so, we aim to advance the reproductive rights and freedoms of all youth in our state, including systems-involved youth. It is essential that youth, both under the age of 18 and as young adults, have equal, quality access to the resources that would allow them to make decisions about their own sexual and reproductive health and rights. Yet, this is not the case for all young people in Maryland. A lack of comprehensive and inclusive sex education, affordable forms of contraception, and access to family planning resources limit the ability for too many youth to exercise control over their futures; while others struggle with establishing and maintaining their legal right to parent. Unfortunately, sometimes girls do not receive the services that need until they are brought into the system. We must ensure that youth involved with juvenile services have the same access to services and rights as their peers who are not in the system.

In 2017, our organization convened the coalition, Reproductive Justice Inside, to advocate for the sexual and reproductive healthcare, services, and rights of any adult or juvenile in the various correctional and detention facilities in our state. We were the lead advocates for the passage of a state law in 2018 establishing that each facility must have a written policy that addresses all pregnancy-related issues, and that a copy of that policy shall be provided to each individual residing in a facility that has received a positive pregnancy test result. By law, the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) is a child-serving agency responsible for assessing the individual needs of referred youth and providing intake, detention, probation, commitment, and after-care services.<sup>i</sup> For the last several years, our organization has participated in statewide coalitions to protect and advance the rights of systems-involved youth, and have noted little attention towards girls. Yet, we cannot also ignore that there have been workgroups about girls formed in the past; in fact, there is a 2019 report by DJS<sup>ii</sup> which was legislatively mandated that discusses the disproportionality of systems-involved girls, such as they are more likely to be detained and incarcerated for lower levels crimes than boys, as well as details on the

services that are provided, such as sexual and reproductive healthcare. Of course, there is much more work to be done, for example making sure that there are beds available in level 1 and 2 facilities for girls, and supporting girls who decide to parent during the length of time that they are under the care/control/custody of the state. However, we recommend not creating new workgroups that identify the problems and available services, and instead invest in the identification of best practices, implementation strategies, and accountability protocols for reform. Our organization urges passage of SB0905 – Juvenile Services – Workgroup to Develop Evidence-Based, Research-Based, and Culturally Competent Practices, or perhaps there can be a directive that the data that has already been collected about systems-involved girls inform this year’s work of the Juvenile Justice Reform Council.

We must work to better equip our systems-involved youth with the resources necessary to make informed decisions on protecting their bodily autonomy and their right to decide when they want to form their own families. Youth in juvenile services need access to health experts to get their questions answered and make decisions regarding their personal health that are best for them. Those who are parenting need access to legal resources to assist them with issues concerning custody and visitation. For too long the emphasis has been on boys, as if girls coming into the system is a temporary abnormality, rather than an increasing trend.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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<sup>i</sup> Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. Retrieved February 22, 2021, from <https://djs.maryland.gov/Pages/about-us/About.aspx>

<sup>ii</sup> Services for DJS-Involved Girls, January 2019 <https://djs.maryland.gov/Documents/publications/DJS-Services-DJS-Involved-Girls-Jan-2019.pdf>