



Esteemed members of the Maryland General Assembly,

Our team at Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy (AISP) at the University of Pennsylvania is writing in support of Senate Bill 0870 establishing the Baltimore City Youth Data Hub. For the past thirteen years, we have assisted government agencies and their university and non-profit partnerships as they work to build the relationships and infrastructure to securely share and integrate data to improve lives.

We have worked with over 40 cities, counties, and states across the country and regularly convene a national network where we promote best practices and standards for data sharing. In this capacity we provided training to the City of Baltimore and Baltimore's Promise in the early stages of the Youth Data Hub's development in 2018-19. We have since witnessed their progress towards a vision where integrated data drives policy and program improvements to better meet the complex needs of the Baltimore's youth.

We have also seen similar efforts pay dividends in other cities and states. When data are shared and linked, governments are better able to measure outcomes to understand what works and efficiently allocate resources where they're needed most.

Our network has demonstrated that this can be done safely with strong governance, legal frameworks, and security protocols in place to protect privacy. To date, we are not aware of a single largescale security breach or incident in the network, and many governments report that the cross-agency governance they've established to share data has in fact improved privacy practices within participating agencies as well. Therefore, we recommend that governments invest to in these systems to minimize risks and maximize the impact of their shared data assets.

In conclusion, we strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 0870 and the establishment of the Baltimore City Youth Data Hub in keeping with national best practices. Thank you for all you do to support evidence-based practices that promote the well-being of children and youth of Baltimore and across the state.

Sincerely,

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