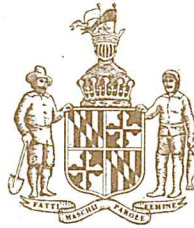


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TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 817
EMPLOYMENT OF PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED INDIVIDUALS –
STATE AGENCIES AND YOUTH CAMPS
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE
MARCH 15, 2022

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 817 is a very straightforward bill that simply creates a clear process for youth camps (such as the ones operated by Boys and Girls Clubs) to better vet potential employees who have direct access to children.

The bill would create a mechanism for the Maryland Department of Health to review the criminal background check information of those applying to work with children at youth camps. The Department of Health would be tasked with issuing related determinations to youth camp operators as to whether or not the results of said background checks would be prohibitive to hiring applicants.

The aim of this legislation is just to make certain that if a job applicant has a criminal record, that there is no direct relationship between their conviction and their potential job duties. The legislation is simply a safeguard to ensure the health and welfare of the children and staff at privately-operated youth camps in Maryland.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 817.