



March 15, 2022, 1 p.m. Judicial Proceedings Committee

SB817—Employment of Previously Convicted Individuals – State Agencies and YouthCamps

Favorable with Amendment

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged young people. MOST is one of the fifty statewide networks supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and serves as Maryland’s affiliate to the National Afterschool Association.

A change in federal law now requires a state agency to serve as an intermediary to receive results from federal background checks. Previously, many non-profit youth-serving organizations like the Girl Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, and others could directly request and receive background check information for their new hires and volunteers. Therefore, a new system must be established to provide timely federal background check information to organizations outside of the purview of the Maryland State Department Childcare Licensing Division. Since the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) already provides this service for youth summer camps, expanding their services to non-childcare, youth serving organizations year-round will allow no disruption in this critical flow of information.

We support SB817 with amended language to include a wider variety of youth-serving organizations that do not fall under child-care licensing. For this purpose and with this addition, we encourage the committee to move forward the legislation with a favorable report.

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