



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 1136 – Human Services – Youth Services Bureaus – Funding
(Youth Services Bureau Restoration Act)
SUPPORT

The City of Rockville is thankful to Chairman Barnes and members of the House Appropriations Committee for the opportunity to provide written comments regarding HB 1136. We are thankful to Delegate Boafu for sponsoring this important legislation.

The City of Rockville Mayor and Council unanimously support HB 1136, which will restore State funding for Youth Services Bureaus beginning in FY26. With the rise in youth crime in Maryland and across the nation, programming that provides positive and engaging activities for our children is desperately needed.

The City was a partner with the State for many years, as a designated Youth Service Bureau, providing delinquency prevention and intervention services, supported by State and local funding. Since the State funds were cut in FY20, this initiative has continued as the Rockville School and Community Youth Services Program. If HB 1136 is enacted, Rockville can easily restart its Youth Service Bureau.

Based in several County public schools and in the community, Rockville's School and Community Youth Services staff work closely with parents, caregivers, teachers, counselors, housing specialists, and police to assist youth and families in crisis and to provide resources, mental health services, youth development, and enrichment programs. Recently addressed needs include social isolation, academic struggles, and social immaturity due to the pandemic. Youth and their families have benefited from assistance addressing depression, anxiety, trauma, substance misuse, and mood and behavior regulation.

Youth today are dealing with difficult issues that other generations did not have to face. We must do everything possible to set them up for social, emotional, and academic success. HB 1136 accomplishes this priority, by providing urgently needed funding for essential youth programs, for low-income families that support success at home, school, and the community. For these reasons, we urge that the Committee provide HB 1136 with a favorable report.