



HB 915 - Workgroup on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
Favorable
March 19, 2026

To the Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Youth Justice Coalition strongly supports HB 915 and is proud to be named as a member of the proposed Workgroup on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care. MYJC is a diverse array of organizations dedicated to preventing children and adolescents from becoming involved in the legal system, upholding the highest standards of care when youth do enter the legal system, and ensuring a platform for system-involved youth and their families to be heard. MYJC strives for a Maryland where no children are at risk of system involvement and, if they are involved with the legal system, they and their families receive every possible opportunity to define and live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives through restorative practices supported by our state and local communities.

Each year, young people in Maryland age out of the foster care system without the stable foundation many of their peers can rely on. Too often, they face immediate barriers to housing, education, employment, and health care—basic needs that are critical to a successful transition into adulthood. These challenges are not the result of individual failure, but of gaps in the systems meant to support them.

HB 915 is an important step toward addressing those gaps. By bringing together stakeholders to assess existing resources, evaluate their effectiveness, and identify where young people are falling through the cracks, this workgroup will help Maryland move from fragmented support to a more coordinated, youth-centered approach.

Importantly, the bill recognizes that we must listen to and learn from young people themselves—understanding which resources they actually need, want, use, trust, and why. It also prioritizes identifying proven programs and practical solutions that can be scaled to improve outcomes.

This work cannot wait. Without intentional action, too many young people aging out of foster care will continue to experience housing instability, economic insecurity, and unmet health needs.

HB 915 lays the groundwork for smarter policy, stronger coordination, and better outcomes. We urge a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.