

**Testimony for the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**Support**

**February 19, 2026**

**HB 1058- Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund - Establishment.**

Lighthouse, Inc., a Maryland Youth Services Bureau located in Catonsville, supports HB 1058 – Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund. HB 1058 establishes a Fund within the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention & Policy (GOCPP) for community-based programs, like Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs).

Lighthouse, Inc., has been proud to serve the larger Baltimore County area for over 50 years. YSBs have been a presence in Maryland for over 40 years, providing a network of prevention services to enhance the health, safety and well-being of Maryland’s children, youth and families.

As a family counseling center, Lighthouse, Inc., provides mental health counseling services to children, youth and their families. Some common issues for which families seek help include depression, anxiety, issues related to neurodivergence, family conflict, grief and loss, and social skills. YSBs are known for providing effective mental health and prevention services. In fact, our research has found that **95% of youth** receiving counseling from a YSB have *not* entered the juvenile justice system two years after ending counseling.

Lighthouse, Inc., would embrace the opportunity to utilize potential funding for YSBs to further our work of preventing youth from entering the juvenile justice system through improved mental health outcomes. Lighthouse, Inc., prides itself as an organization that will never turn away a client due to inability to pay, and this commitment is made possible in part by financial support from the State.

We respectfully ask you to support this bill.