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**BILL NO.:**           **HB 709**

**TITLE:**             Human Services – Youth Services Bureaus - Funding

**SPONSOR:**         Delegate Valentino-Smith

**COMMITTEE:**      Appropriations

**POSITION:**       **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**             February 18, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 709 - Human Services – Youth Services Bureaus - Funding. This proposed legislation would repeal a requirement that the Department of Human Services (DHS) identify eligible youth services bureaus and estimate the amount of State funds to allocate to each youth services bureau (YSB). Instead, it would require the State to match funds for a youth services bureau to be paid directly to its private sponsor, and mandate that the Governor include at least \$1.8 million in the annual budget bill to YSBs.

Youth services bureaus provide a broad variety of invaluable resources to the children they serve, including crisis intervention, counseling, and training in technical skills. By adjusting the current standards for YSB funding and oversight, this proposed legislation guarantees that the individuals who rely on these services would not have to worry about funding issues.

Hundreds of young people in Baltimore County rely on YSBs. By guaranteeing their continued funding, Baltimore County provides these young people with a clearer path to a future as happy, well-adjusted members of society.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 709. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.