



*"Being here for Maryland's Children, Youth, and Families"*

Testimony submitted to House Judiciary Committee

Hearing Date: January 16, 2020

**House Bill 36 – Juvenile Proceedings - Fines, Fees, and Costs  
Support**

The Maryland Association of Youth Service Bureaus, which represents fourteen (14) bureaus throughout the State of Maryland, **supports** House Bill 36 – Juvenile Proceedings - Fines, Fees, and Costs. This bill would repeal certain provisions of law that would allow the juvenile court to impose fines and/or court and other legal costs against a juvenile or his/her parent, guardian, or custodian under certain conditions.

Youth Service Bureaus work with youth involved in the juvenile justice system and know that middle and low-income families can often be overburdened with costs if a youth in the household becomes involved in the juvenile justice system. Furthermore, there may be additional consequences for youth and families who are unable to pay required fees.

This bill will help ease the financial burden on overstressed families and will also assist in the State of Maryland's efforts to address the disproportionate number of juvenile members of minority groups who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. Data in Maryland shows that youth of color are disparately impacted at each decision point in the juvenile justice system. House Bill 694 will ensure a fairer system for all youth.

We respectfully ask you to **support** this bill.

Respectfully Submitted:

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