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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Testimony in Support

Of

House Bill 872 - State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services – Membership

Put simply, House Bill 872 is a request to add two new members to the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services and designates that they be employees of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). They would both be appointed by the President of AFSCME Council 3 which is the union that represents employees at the Department of Juvenile Services. It is expected that of the two employees, one would work inside a DJS facility and one would work in the field.

This legislation is important because none of the current board members are directly involved in the day-to-day provision of services in the DJS. The current board is composed of managers from other state agencies (or their designees), the judiciary, law enforcement and community stakeholders.

This Board is long-standing. It was formed in 1966 and meets six times per year.

The purpose of the Board includes consulting with and advising the Secretary of Juvenile Services about ways to improve policies and programs as well as evaluating them. Recently, the legislature added to their responsibilities by including a review of fatalities that occur under the jurisdiction of the department.

Because DJS employees are working on the front lines, it would be most advantageous to add them to the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services as they will bring valuable voices to the process.

I respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 872.

Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield