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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 25, 2021

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1121

JUVENILE SERVICES-WORKGROUP TO DEVELOP

EVIDENCE-BASED, RESEARCH-BASED, AND CULTURALLY COMPETENT PRACTICES

This legislation results from the recommendations presented to the Maryland General Assembly in the final report (January 2021) issued by the Maryland Juvenile Justice Reform Council.

House Bill 1121 will require the Department of Juvenile Services and the Department of Human Services to convene a work group to ensure that prevention and intervention services delivered to children and juveniles in the areas of child welfare, juvenile mental health, and juvenile rehabilitation be primarily evidence-based, research-based, and engage in culturally competent practices. This will provide the Department of Juvenile Services with objective information about which programs achieve desired outcomes (such as reduced recidivism and improved health).

HB 1121 will require the workgroup to:

- Complete an assessment of the use of evidence-based, research-based, and culturally competent practices in child welfare, juvenile rehabilitation, and juvenile mental health; and
- Prepare and publish an inventory of prevention and intervention services that meet the above requirements that will be used by the Department of Juvenile Services for delivery of services to children and juveniles.

With this legislation, a work group will be created to ensure that prevention and intervention services delivered to children and juveniles by the Department of Juvenile Services are primarily evidence-based, research-based and culturally competent.

I respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 1121.

Sincerely,

Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield