



Maryland Association of
Resources for Families & Youth

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
Members, House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Charlotte Crutchfield

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 25, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1121 – *Juvenile Services – Workgroup to Develop Evidence-Based, Research-Based, and Culturally Competent Practices*

The Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY) is a statewide network of private agencies serving at-risk children and youth and advocates for a system of care in Maryland that meets the needs of children and families. MARFY is a program of Maryland Nonprofits and **supports** the passage of House Bill 1121.

House Bill 1121 requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and the Department of Human Services to convene a workgroup that is charged with identifying and assessing evidence-based, research-based, and culturally competent practices in child welfare, juvenile rehabilitation, and children's mental health with the goal of expanding the adoption of such practices to enhance the accountability and effectiveness of prevention and intervention services provided to children in DJS. The creation of the Workgroup and its charges reflect one of the recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Reform Council's recently issued report.

MARFY has a strong commitment to racial equity, and we believe this Workgroup will help advance culturally appropriate services in juvenile justice and child welfare to address the disproportionate harm to Black children, youth, and families that occurs in the absence of culturally appropriate services and policies. MARFY believes the creation of the Workgroup will provide a framework for the adoption of properly vetted evidence-based, research-based, and culturally competent practices within the juvenile justice system, which will serve to enhance the responsiveness and effectiveness of the system in both prevention and intervention, as well as address historic issues of racial inequity for those juveniles served by the system. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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