



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

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
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*

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The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support** for 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. By September 1, 2022, DJS is to report to the General Assembly on recommended strategies, timelines, and budgetary needs for increasing the use of evidence-based, research-based, and culturally competent practices in prevention and intervention services delivered to children by DJS.

The creation of the Workgroup and its charges reflect one of the recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Reform Council's recently issued report. The adoption of properly vetted evidence-based, research-based, and culturally competent practices within the juvenile justice system will serve to enhance the responsiveness and effectiveness of the system in both prevention and intervention, thereby leading to improved life outcomes for those juveniles served by the system. A favorable report is requested.

**For more information call:**

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