



Maryland Association of
LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS

March 1, 2021

In support of House Bill 1307

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards I am writing in support of House Bill 1307, which exempts certain youth development organizations and programs from the definition of a child care center.

The need for this exemption became very apparent at the beginning of the pandemic. LMBs across the state were working in tandem with their local school systems to ensure that we did everything we could to decrease disparities for low and very low income students as we moved to virtual education. Partnerships rose up quickly between government, the not-for-profit community and local personnel to create access to learning for those students with the most barriers who are also disproportionately African American and Latinx. Innovative and COVID compliant virtual learning was planned to take place in existing local youth development centers but the work could not proceed due to the current Maryland code related to child care centers. That code should not be applied to the k-12 population.

One of the many things that COVID has taught us is the importance of innovation. This is an opportunity to create an exemption that will allow for innovation without any risk to students, given the safeguards in this bill. Sometimes the very structures that were created to protect children act as barriers for those who are most in need of our help. As the Chair of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards I urge you to pass this Legislation so that all of our students can be offered equal access to opportunity through certain youth development centers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P M Brown".

Pamela M. Brown, PhD
Chair
Maryland Association of Local Management Boards