



Maryland Association of
Resources for Families & Youth

TO: The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
Members, House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 12, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 854 – *Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center – Inclusion of Out-of-Home Placement Data*

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 854.

House Bill 854 adds the Social Services Administration to the entities required to provide data to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System with the goal of generating timely and accurate information about children in state-sponsored out-of-home care that can be used to improve the State's education and child welfare systems and guide future decision-making. To date, this placement information has not been taken fully into account when evaluating student and workforce data. MARFY believes that adding this data will help the State better evaluate the experiences and outcomes of children provided with out-of-home placements. Efforts by the State that encourage a more coordinated and more effective approach to the delivery of services to children will help address some of the challenges and barriers to success that these children often face in school and in life.

MARFY members, who serve the children and youth that are the focus of this legislation, believe that passage of House Bill 854 will help improve school and life outcomes for these children. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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