



**March 9, 2023**

**House Bill 1226  
Economic Development - Nonprofit Sustainability Fund - Establishment**

**Position: SUPPORT**

The Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY) is an association of private child caring organizations providing foster care, group homes, and other services through more than 200 programs across Maryland. The members of MARFY represent providers who serve Maryland's most vulnerable children who are in out of home placements due to abuse, neglect or severe mental health, and medical needs. We operate group homes, treatment foster care programs and independent living programs, primarily serving the foster care population as well as a juvenile services population.

Nonprofit organizations like ours rely on a combination of public and private funding to provide high-quality services to those in need. However, nonprofit organizations often struggle to secure funding for general operating support, which is essential for maintaining the infrastructure and systems necessary to deliver quality services to our clients. HB1226 would establish a Nonprofit Sustainability Fund that would provide much-needed general operating support to nonprofit organizations like ours. This funding would help us maintain and strengthen our organizational infrastructure, allowing us to continue providing high-quality services to Marylanders in need.

The bill also discusses the establishment of the Nonprofit Sustainability Fund Evaluation Committee. This group would ensure that applications for grants from the fund are evaluated fairly and objectively. Another positive note from this legislation is that it specifies the criteria for eligibility for a certain grant from the Fund to help ensure resources are directed towards organizations that are most in need of support.

The resources non-profits like MARFY provide are critical for the well being of vulnerable populations in the State, therefore prioritizing grant funding and fairness for applicants is invaluable. It is for these aforementioned reasons, that we politely ask for a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 504. Thank you.

**For more information call or email:**

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