



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 810

Maryland Priority Out-of-School Time Program – Alterations

To: Chair Melony Griffith and Members of the Finance Committee
From: Demaune A. Millard, President & CEO, Family League of Baltimore
Date: March 16, 2023

The Family League of Baltimore (Family League) supports Senate Bill 810 as it would transfer the Public School Opportunities Enhancement Program from the State Department of Education to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. We also support renaming the Program - Maryland Priority Out-of-School Time Program, an educational and recreational enrichment program for children ages 4 to 19.

Family League understands the importance of having afterschool and mentoring programs available to youth across Baltimore City and the State. Giving parents and students resources for afterschool programs helps to provide youth with alternative activities to participate in once the school day is over. Parents often must leave work early to pick up their kids or struggle with securing after school care but enrolling them in these programs allows kids to stay in a safe environment that promotes learning in a safe environment. To ensure that these programs continue to run - appropriate funding is needed, which is why SB810 is important to ensure that the funding continues.

SB810 would rename the Public School Opportunity Enhancement (PSOE) to the Maryland Priority Out-of-School Time Program and move it to the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. This move would allow for the grant program to be administered in consultation with the Local Management Boards. As the Local Management Board for Baltimore we currently have 43 Out of School Time (OST) programs serving over 2,300 students. Having the opportunity to continue serving the youth in Baltimore and across the state will continue to be beneficial to youth.

As the designated Local Management Board for the City of Baltimore, Family League works collaboratively to support data-informed, community-driven solutions to align resources to dismantle systemic barriers that limit the possibilities for children, families, and communities. Our policy focus is also guided by and in support of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention Youth and Victim Services' Results for Child Well-Being. Through our strategic planning process, we have prioritized three of these results areas, focusing on the success of Baltimore's children in school; the economic stability of families; and the safety of communities for children, youth, and families. We support SB810 in particular because of its alignment with the result areas that work to ensure "Communities are Safe for Children, Youth and Families."

For more information contact Keontae Kells, Executive Administrator kkells@familyleague.org