



March 6, 2024

**House Bill 849- Human Services-Unlimited Basic Income for Transition-Age Youth-
Establishment
House Appropriations Committee**

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.

If passed, this bill will represent a significant step forward in addressing the economic insecurities faced by youth aging out of home placement program, by providing them with a foundational support system that recognizes their unique challenges and potential for growth. The Universal Basic Income for Transition Age Youth Program, as outlined in House Bill 849, is designed to provide unconditional cash payments of \$1000 per month for a period of 3 years to eligible individuals.

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Furthermore, this initiative is not just about financial assistance; it's about affording dignity, fostering independence, and empowering young adults to pursue their aspirations without the immediate burden of economic hardship. Eligibility for this program is thoughtfully considered, targeting those who have resided in an out of home placement on their 18th birthday, and whose 18th birthday is on or after October 1, 2022. Such criteria ensure that the program benefits those in most need, providing a lifeline as they transition to adulthood.

Overall, House Bill 849 represents a thoughtful, innovative, and necessary approach to supporting our youth in transition. It acknowledges the challenges faced by those aging out of out-of-home placements and offers a solution that is both empowering and practical. **It is for these reasons we politely ask for a favorable report on House Bill 849.**

For more information call or email:

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