



***Brightening Tomorrow, Today***

---

**Testimony submitted to House Appropriations Committee  
March 4, 2025**

**Support**

**HB 1429 - Youth Services Bureaus - Criminal History Records Checks - Employees,  
Volunteers, and Interns**

Lighthouse, Inc., Youth and Family Services supports HB 1429, authorizing youth services bureaus to request a criminal history records check from the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository for employees, volunteers, and interns.

Lighthouse is a community-based member of the Maryland Association of Youth Service Bureaus (MAYSB), providing counseling, psycho-educational groups, and other mental health services to at-risk children, teens, and their parents, for over 50 years. As the only remaining Youth Service Bureau in Baltimore County, we work closely with schools, faith-based organizations, and local government to enhance the health, safety and well-being of Maryland's youth and families.

The safety of our clients is of paramount importance to Lighthouse, and the first step toward that is making sure that our staff, interns, and volunteers are thoroughly screened and vetted. HB 1429 corrects an unintended consequence of a recent federal policy that limits access to federal background checks. The existing rules allow us to do background checks for any offenses committed within the state of Maryland, but make it impossible for Youth Service Bureaus to conduct a full and complete screening of the adults who will be working with our youth, especially those who have lived in or traveled to another state. Passage of HB 1429 would assist Lighthouse and other Youth Service Bureaus with ensuring the safest environment possible for the youth and families we serve.

We respectfully ask that you support this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Susan Fetcho, LCPC, ACS, NCC, BC-TMH  
Clinical Director