



February 25, 2025

House Bill 809 – Out-of-Home Placement Providers – Maximum Number of Children – Exemption

Appropriations Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY), we submit this testimony in strong support of House Bill 809, which seeks to establish a regulatory framework setting the maximum number of children that may be placed with an out-of-home placement provider while allowing for reasonable exemptions under certain circumstances.

MARFY is a coalition of private child-caring organizations that provide foster care, group homes, and independent living programs for Maryland’s most vulnerable children—those who have been placed out of their homes due to abuse, neglect, severe mental health conditions, or complex medical needs. Through more than 200 programs statewide, our member organizations work to provide stable, supportive, and high-quality care for children in need.

Children in out-of-home placements deserve environments that promote safety, stability, and personal growth. By ensuring that placement providers adhere to reasonable limits on the number of children they serve, HB809 helps ensure that children in care receive the individualized attention and support they require. This bill appropriately balances these necessary regulations with an exemption for children enrolled in accredited institutions of higher education who need temporary housing due to campus closures, scheduled breaks, or temporary leaves of absence. This provision is essential in preventing unnecessary disruptions to their academic progress and overall well-being.

How HB809 Supports Maryland’s Vulnerable Youth:

1. **Maintaining Quality of Care:** Research has shown that overcrowded placements can compromise the level of care and attention that children receive. This bill will promote more effective and sustainable child welfare practices by ensuring that capacity limitations are in place.
2. **Flexibility for Higher Education Students:** Many youth in foster care pursue post-secondary education, and unforeseen circumstances such as university breaks can leave them without stable housing. HB809 ensures that their progress is not hindered by bureaucratic limitations.
3. **Enhancing Provider Accountability:** By requiring the Department of Human Services to adopt clear regulations, HB809 will increase accountability and improve transparency in Maryland’s child welfare system.



Maryland Association of
Resources for Families & Youth

MARFY strongly supports HB809 and asks the Maryland General Assembly to pass this bill to enhance the well-being of children in out-of-home care while preserving critical flexibility for those pursuing higher education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

For more information call or email:

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