



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

Testimony submitted to House Appropriations Committee

Support

March 4, 2025

HB 1429

The City of Bowie 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.

HB 1429 corrects an unintended consequence of a recent federal policy that limits access to federal background checks. Because of this change, Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs) are not able to properly screen potential employees, interns, and volunteers.

Bowie's Youth Service Bureau has been a part of the city of Bowie for the past 54 years. The agency provides counseling services, parenting classes, psycho-educational groups, crisis intervention services, mentoring, and other programs for hundreds of our local youth each year. Currently, only State of Maryland background checks are accessible to us in order to screen the adults who are working with our young people. Without the federal checks, it is not possible to determine whether an individual has a criminal record outside the state of Maryland.

HB 1429 would strengthen the ability to provide a safe environment for our youth.

We respectfully ask you to support this bill.

MAYOR Timothy J. Adams

MAYOR PRO TEM Dufour Woolfley

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