



CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

6421 Atwood Street ★ District Heights, Maryland 20747

Phone: (301) 336-7600 ★ Fax: (301) 499-2121

EMAIL: ysb@districtheights.org * Web: www.districtheights.org

March 19, 2025

The Honorable Senators of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland Senate
2 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To The Members of the Committee,

The District Heights Family and Youth Services Bureau **supports HB 1429** which will authorize Youth Service Bureaus to request a criminal history records check from the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository for employees, volunteers, and interns.

Historically, Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs) have run federal background checks as a crucial part of our screening process. However, two years ago, some YSBs lost access to these checks due to a new FBI rule aimed at improving job opportunities for individuals with criminal histories. While this policy change has brought benefits in many areas, it has inadvertently impacted our ability to access federal background checks.

As a result, YSBs are now limited to conducting only State of Maryland fingerprinting and background checks. While not all YSBs have encountered this issue yet, it has become a widespread challenge. According to the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), we can only gain access to federal checks through specific statutory authorization.

These restrictions have made it difficult, if not impossible, to complete a comprehensive screening process, particularly for individuals who have lived in or traveled to other states. Without access to these broader checks, our ability to ensure the safety and well-being of those we serve is significantly limited.

We respectfully request your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Katrina Emerson, LCPC, NCC, ACS, Executive Director