

# **Carroll County Youth Service Bureau - Support for**

Uploaded by: Ann Ciekot

Position: FAV



# **CARROLL COUNTY YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU, INC.**

59 KATE WAGNER ROAD - WESTMINSTER, MD 21157

410.848.2500 - 1.888.588.8441 - FAX 410.876.3016

## **Testimony Before the House Appropriations Committee March 4, 2025**

### **House Bill 1429 - Youth Services Bureaus - Criminal History Records Checks - Employees, Volunteers, and Interns Support**

The Carroll County Youth Service Bureau (CCYSB) 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.

The Carroll County Youth Service Bureau (CCYSB) is part of the statewide structure of Maryland Youth Service Bureaus for over 50 years. CCYSB is a multifaceted outpatient mental health treatment agency licensed by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, certified by the Council for the Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities (CARF), and certified by the Department of Juvenile Services. Treatment and prevention services are largely designed to support children, adolescents, and families, with adult services available as well. Treatment options include psychotherapy and psychiatric evaluations, and home-based services through the Family Preservation, Assertive Community Treatment, and Mobile treatment programs, and many programs serving youth of all ages. Additionally, we offer five (5) evidence-based treatment programs.

HB 1429 corrects an unintended consequence of a recent federal policy that limits access to federal background checks. Though MAYSB supports the reasons for the policy change, the current rules make it impossible for Youth Service Bureaus to conduct a full screening of new employees, interns, and volunteers, especially those who have lived in or traveled to another state.

While we are not currently experiencing the limitations of procuring federal background checks, I can assure you that our ability to comply with safety regulations from the State of Maryland and our accrediting agency (Council for the Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities- CARF) would be severely limited without the ability to have federal background checks for staff and interns.

Passage of HB 1429 would assist Youth Service Bureaus with creating the safest environment possible for the children and families we serve.

We respectfully ask you to support this bill.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and "D".

Lynn Davis  
Carroll County Youth Service Bureau, Inc.  
59 Kate Wagner Road  
Westminster, MD 21157

# **KEYS Empowerment - Baltimore City - Support HB 142**

Uploaded by: Ann Ciekot

Position: FAV

**Testimony submitted to Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
March 19, 2025**

**House Bill 1429 - Youth Services Bureaus - Criminal History Records Checks –  
Employees, Volunteers, and Interns**

**Support**

KEYS Empowers, Inc. supports HB 1429, a bill 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.

As The Baltimore City Youth Services Bureau, we have proudly served the community since 2022. Our agency provides vital services such as barrier removal, case management, mentoring, entrepreneurship initiatives, and workforce development programs for minors. Each year, we connect with hundreds of local youth, empowering them to overcome obstacles and achieve their goals.

To ensure the safety and well-being of our scholars, it is imperative that we obtain approval for comprehensive background checks—including federal checks. Currently, we only have access to Maryland state background checks, which limits our ability to fully vet the adults who work closely with our youth. Without access to federal checks, we cannot adequately assess whether an individual has a criminal record outside of Maryland, posing a significant risk to our service delivery and the safety of those we serve.

We believe that ensuring the highest standards of safety is essential in fostering a supportive and secure environment for our youth. Therefore, we are seeking approval to facilitate these critical background checks, allowing us to continue our mission effectively and responsibly. HB 1429 would strengthen the ability to provide a safe environment for our youth.

We respectfully ask you to support this bill.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ajah Doswell" with "LMSW" written below it.

Ajah Doswell, LMSW CFO  
[adoswell@keysempowers.org](mailto:adoswell@keysempowers.org)  
(443) 415-4034



# **Lighthouse - Baltimore County - Support HB1429 - S**

Uploaded by: Ann Ciekot

Position: FAV



***Brightening Tomorrow, Today***

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**Testimony submitted to Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
March 19, 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



# **HB1429\_FAV\_CityofBowie\_Crossover.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: City Council Bowie

Position: FAV



# City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way  
Bowie, Maryland 20716

## Testimony Submitted to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

### Support

**March 19, 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

**COUNCIL** Dennis Brady • Wanda Rogers • Michael P. Estève • Clinton Truesdale • Roxy Ndebumadu • **CITY MANAGER** Alfred D. Lott  
City Hall (301) 262-6200 FAX (301) 809-2302 TDD (301) 262-5013 WEB [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org)

## **District Heights - Lettter of Support for HB1429 -**

Uploaded by: Katrina Emerson

Position: FAV



**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](mailto:ysb@districtheights.org) \* Web: [www.districtheights.org](http://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

# **MAYSB 2025 - HB 1429 FWA - Youth Service Bureaus B**

Uploaded by: Liz Park

Position: FAV



**Testimony Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
March 19, 2025**

**House Bill 1429 - Youth Services Bureaus - Criminal History Records Checks  
- Employees, Volunteers, and Interns  
Support with Amendments**

The Maryland Association of Youth Service Bureaus (MAYSB) 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. We support the amendments being offered by the sponsor which will ensure the law will meet CJIS requirements.

MAYSB is a network of community-based Youth Service Bureaus who provide counseling, mentoring, psycho-educational groups, and other services to at-risk children, teens, and their parents. Services are provided in partnership with schools, faith-based organizations, and local government to enhance the health, safety and well-being of Maryland's youth and families.

HB 1429 corrects an unintended consequence of a recent federal policy that limits access to federal background checks. Though MAYSB supports the reasons for the policy change, the current rules make it impossible for Youth Service Bureaus to conduct a full screening of new employees, interns, and volunteers, especially those who have lived in or traveled to another state. Passage of HB 1429 would assist Youth Service Bureaus with creating the safest environment possible for the kids and families we serve.

We respectfully ask you to support this bill.