



April 3, 2026

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

House Bill 915 — Workgroup on Aging Out of Foster Care

Position: Support

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY), we respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 915.

MARFY represents licensed private child-placing agencies and community-based providers delivering foster care, treatment foster care, group homes, and independent living services through more than 200 programs across Maryland. Our members serve children and youth who have experienced abuse, neglect, complex trauma, and significant behavioral health needs. We work every day with young people preparing to transition from out-of-home placement into adulthood often without the safety net of family support.

[Research shows that things like tuition assistance](#) and housing support grant programs are extremely beneficial to youth-in-foster care as they age out of care; but we also know that there is much left unknown in what these youth need. This is exactly what this bill aims to do – connect the right stakeholders, Departments, and individuals with lived experience to come together to create, collaborate and to report on the State can expand its’ support for these youth.

Too often, young people must navigate complex and disconnected supports at a time when stability is most critical. House Bill 915 presents a thoughtful and necessary step forward. By convening a workgroup that brings together state agencies, providers, advocates, and individuals with lived experience, this legislation creates the structure needed to evaluate current supports, identify gaps, and develop actionable recommendations. Importantly, it centers the voices of those who have experienced foster care firsthand—ensuring that policy solutions are grounded in real-world experience.

This workgroup is not about starting from scratch; it is about aligning and strengthening what already exists while building a more cohesive, responsive system that meets youth where they are. With the right coordination and strategy, Maryland has the opportunity to become a national leader in supporting young people as they transition out of foster care and into stable, successful adulthood.

For these reasons, MARFY respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 915. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information call or email:

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