



Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 19, 2026

Senate Bill 537 – *Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund – Establishment*
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 537, which would create a new state special fund called the Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund to support community-based programs aimed at preventing youth delinquency and addressing related challenges.

MDAAP supports Senate Bill 537 because it invests in early, community-based interventions that improve the health and well-being of children and adolescents. Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs), which would be eligible for grants under this bill, provide critical services directly aligned with MDAAP priorities, including mental health support, substance use prevention, family counseling, and youth development programs. By strengthening YSBs and other community programs through dedicated funding, Senate Bill 537 ensures that children receive preventive care and supportive services before problems escalate, reducing the risk of delinquency and promoting healthier, more resilient youth. MDAAP recognizes that community-based prevention is essential to pediatric health, and this bill provides a sustainable mechanism to expand access to these vital services for all Maryland children. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

For more information call:

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