



**Testimony Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 3, 2026**

**House Bill 915:
Workgroup on Aging Out of Foster Care**

****SUPPORT****

The National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter represents over 3,000 social workers statewide. We support House Bill 915 as it will create a workgroup to examine existing and best practices, and make recommendations on how Maryland can better support youth aging out of foster care. NASW-Maryland is pleased to be named as a participant in this work.

As a person who spent most of my youth in foster care, I know first-hand how the system does and does not work. Transitioning out of foster care is often marked by isolation, instability, and complexity. The moment youth exit care, the paid supports disappear. During college, I experienced homelessness because I had nowhere to go during academic breaks. I nearly did not complete my undergraduate degree due to profound depression and isolation. I needed stability and support—someone to help hold me up—but instead, I felt discarded and left to navigate adulthood alone. I incurred significant debt to secure housing, a burden I continue to carry today. That debt became yet another barrier to long-term stability.

As a person with lived-experience and a licensed clinical social worker, I strongly support House Bill 915. Maryland needs to do a better job building dignity and stability for young people while they are in the foster care system, and provide better supports as they transition out.

On behalf of NASW Maryland, I respectfully urge a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,
Arielle Skinner, LCSW-C