



**Local power, collective voice
for Maryland's children, youth and families**

February 4, 2025

SUPPORT – SB296 - Juveniles - Detention and Confinement - Limitations on Juvenile Contact With Incarcerated Adults

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of **SB296 Juveniles - Detention and Confinement - Limitations on Juvenile Contact With Incarcerated Adults**. This bill helps keep youth separated from incarcerated adults within the criminal justice system. Mixing youth with adults creates severe, life-threatening dangers for minors, including significantly higher rates of sexual assault, physical violence, and suicide. Adult facilities fail to address the developmental needs of adolescents, often leading to increased recidivism, reduced access to education, and profound psychological trauma.

Local Management Boards in each county and jurisdiction in the State of Maryland conduct community needs assessments and address the needs of children and families in their respective jurisdiction. We work at the prevention and intervention stages of programming to ensure our youth are developing protective factors that will keep them free of the adult criminal justice system. They need youth centered interventions at all stages of care, including within any sort of residential care..

We urge you to support SB296 - Juveniles - Detention and Confinement - Limitations on Juvenile Contact With Incarcerated Adults to ensure our youth are not housed with adults in any part of the adult criminal justice system, including when they are being transported.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, PhD
Chair, Legislative Committee
Maryland Association of Local Management Boards