



Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
April 3, 2026
House Bill 915 – *Workgroup on Aging Out of Foster Care*
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 *House Bill 915: Workgroup on Aging Out of Foster Care*.

House Bill 915 establishes a workgroup on aging out of foster care that will review existing resources and identify gaps in services related to housing stability, food security, transportation, employment, education, behavioral health, etc. The information gathered will be used to understand how current systems support youth aging out of care, and what improvements are needed. Additionally, the workgroup will identify programs that have successfully improved outcomes for youth aging out of care. Importantly, the workgroup does not just include input from professionals but also includes the voice of young adults with lived experience. This expertise will ensure that recommendations reflect the real barriers that former foster youth face as they enter adulthood.

Successful transition to adulthood requires resources, adult support and guidance, career skills, and knowledge about topics such as budgeting and saving, cooking, and navigating physical and mental health systems. Unfortunately, transition programs have not adequately addressed youth needs and have been particularly lacking in skills, such as engaging in health care and how to develop and maintain healthy relationships.¹ Given that youth transitioning out of foster care are more likely than other youth to have physical and mental health issues and disabilities, and are at increased risk for homelessness and school failure,² adequately addressing their needs is vital. For these reasons, the MDAAP urges a favorable report on *House Bill 915: Workgroup on Aging out of Foster Care*.

For more information call:

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¹ Doucet MM, Greeson JKP, Eldeeb N. Independent living programs and services for youth ‘aging out’ of care in Canada and the U.S.: A systematic review. *Child Youth Serv Rev.* 2022;142:106630.

² American Academy of Pediatrics. *Fostering Health: Health Care for Children and Adolescents in Foster Care*, 3rd Ed. Itasca, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2025.