

CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND

COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

25 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MD. 20770



Testimony submitted to Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Support

February 19, 2026

SB 537- Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund - Establishment.

The City of Greenbelt supports SB 537– Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund. SB 537 establishes a Fund within the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention & Policy (GOCPP) for community based programs, like Youth Service Bureaus (YSB). Greenbelt historically partnered with the State to fund a YSB, Greenbelt CARES, and would welcome the opportunity to re-establish this partnership to prevent delinquency.

Youth Service Bureaus have been part of Maryland’s strategy for over 40 years, to provide a network of prevention services. The network of YSBs was designed to be community based and to partner with local schools, faith-based organizations, and local government agencies to enhance the health, safety and well-being of Maryland’s children, youth and families. The success of YSBs can be attributed to their prevention, community-based, family-focused approach to the development of a young person and their family’s protective factors.

Greenbelt CARES Youth Services Bureau is a department within the City of Greenbelt. It was established to provide prevention services to children, youth and their families. Greenbelt CARES is a community-oriented, family focused agency offering a variety of mental health, education, and social supports to Greenbelt and surrounding communities in Prince George’s County. CARES provides individual adult and family counseling as well as Parenting Classes and Anger Management groups. CARES offers counseling and groups in Spanish and English. CARES provides educational supports to children, teens and young adults through a GED preparation class, tutoring services, and workforce development programs. CARES goals are to help young people succeed in life, in their educational pursuits, to make families a healthy place for children and adults to grow and prosper, and to connect residents with needed resources.

Some common issues for which families seek help are: ADHD; Aggression/Anger/ Violence; Bullying; Delinquent Behaviors; Depression/ Anxiety; Family Conflict; Grief/ Loss; Parenting Concerns; Poor Decision Making; School Related Problems; Social Skills; Suicide Ideation: and Truancy.

The City, as a local government, would embrace the potential funding for Greenbelt CARES and other YSBs to further their work of preventing youth from entering the juvenile justice system.

YSBs are known for providing effective mental health and prevention services. In fact, **95% of youth** served in formal counseling by a YSB do **NOT** enter the juvenile justice system 2 years after ending counseling.

We respectfully ask you to Support this bill.