



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way

Bowie, Maryland 20716

Support Letter for Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund

SB537/HB1038

The City of Bowie supports Senate Bill 537/ House Bill 1038 which will create a Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund. The City of Bowie believes that Maryland should invest in Prevention Services for young people to divert them from the juvenile justice system. Prevention programs, such as Youth Service Bureaus, provide important mental health, educational, and workforce development services, to assist youth and their families to be successful.

Prevention Programs are in the communities where young people live and are able to be responsive to local needs that arise. They can offer families a safe place to address difficult issues such as truancy, violence, trauma, bullying, depression and suicidal ideation. In addition, these programs are connected to other community resources and serve as a trusted resource to connect families with needed resources. Creating a Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund will allow the State to once again partner with local communities in providing these needed delinquency prevention services in our communities.

Youth Service Bureaus, as one example, are mandated in state law to serve youth and families by providing group and family counseling, information and referral services, crisis intervention including suicide assessments, and substance use assessments and referrals. A fund that supports Youth Service Bureaus makes sense to ensure that the State invests in a network of programs providing these services.

Youth Service Bureaus have proven to be successful in preventing youth referred by the Department of Juvenile Services from being re-adjudicated. Two years after YSB services, 95% of youth were not involved in the justice system. These services can help make youth justice laws effective.

The City of Bowie respectfully requests that you support SB 537/ HB 1038 to establish a Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund voting in favor of this legislation.

ACTING MAYOR H.L. Dufour Woolfley

COUNCIL Dennis Brady • Michael P. Estève • Roxy Ndebumadu • Wanda Rogers • Clinton Truesdale, Sr. **CITY MANAGER** Alfred D. Lott

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