



Maryland Youth Advisory Council
c/o Governor's Office Children
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Graham Snyder, *Chair*
Joyce Yun, *Vice Chair*
Qamryn Askew, *Legislative Chair*

January 28, 2026
House Bill 25 - Family Law - Grandparent Visitation
Judiciary Committee

Dear Chair Bartlett and the Judiciary Committee,

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) supports HB0025, Family Law - Grandparent Visitation, and appreciates this bill's intent to center the best interests of children and youth in family law proceedings.

MYAC recognizes that children and adolescents benefit from stability and continuity in their support systems, particularly during periods of family disruption such as divorce or separation. Grandparents frequently serve as consistent sources of emotional support, mentorship, and caregiving. When a meaningful and healthy grandparent relationship is abruptly severed, youth may experience increased emotional distress, instability, and a loss of trusted adult support. In many cases, grandparents play an important role in caring for their grandchildren. Considering visitation rights for grandparents whom grandchildren have lived with for an extended period of time, or when the parent who is the child of the grandparent is deceased, is crucial for the development and stability of children already impacted by stressful family events including divorce.

House Bill 0025 provides courts with the opportunity to evaluate grandparent visitation requests while maintaining appropriate respect for parental authority. The bill does not establish automatic visitation rights; instead, it allows judicial consideration of whether visitation is in the best interests of the child. MYAC supports this approach, believing that it ensures that decisions affecting children prioritize their emotional well-being, safety, and long-term development.

Sincerely,

Evangeline Roath
Vice Legislative Chair, MYAC