

**THE COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND'S CHILDREN**

*Our Mission: To combine and amplify the power of organizations and citizens working together to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. We strive to secure budgetary and public policy resources to make meaningful and measurable improvements in safety, permanence, and wellbeing.*



**HB0475 - Department of Juvenile Services - Employees - Prohibited Convictions (Juvenile Offender Protection Act)  
House Judiciary Committee  
February 12, 2026**

**Position: SUPPORT**

The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children is a consortium of organizations and individuals formed in 1992 who are concerned about the care of Maryland's most vulnerable children and work together to educate and promote meaningful child welfare reform. **CPMC urges a favorable report on HB0475 - Department of Juvenile Services - Employees - Prohibited Convictions (Juvenile Offender Protection Act).**

Although we assume that the Department of Juvenile Services already has parameters in place to conduct employment-related criminal background checks, this measure seeks to establish in statute a prohibition in the department of hiring a prospective employee or retaining an employee convicted of violent crimes against persons, including those involving physical or sexual abuse of children as well as the trafficking of children.

It is for these reasons that the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children **urges a favorable report on HB0475 - Department of Juvenile Services - Employees - Prohibited Convictions (Juvenile Offender Protection Act).**<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Members of CPMC represented by this written testimony include Arrow Child & Family Ministries, Center for Hope, Child Justice, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Baltimore County, Maryland's Children Alliance, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, National Association of Social Workers – MD Chapter, State Council on Child Abuse & Neglect, and individual members of the coalition.