



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

February 19, 2026

Chair, Judiciary Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of HB776 — Juvenile Law – Child in Need of Supervision – Mandatory Petition
(NyKayla Strawder Memorial Act)

Dear Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB776 on behalf of the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City.

This bill expands the circumstances under which officers must file a mandatory petition alleging that a child needs supervision. Specifically, the bill requires:

1. That if a complaint alleges that a child under the age of 13 committed an act that results in the death of a victim, the intake officer must file a petition alleging that the child needs supervision; and,
2. That if a law enforcement officer alleges that a child under the age of 13 committed an act that results in the death of a victim, the officer must forward the complaint to the Department of Juvenile Services for appropriate action.

The State's Attorney's Office for Baltimore City supports this bill because we believe that incidents of this severity involving children in this age group warrant intervention through the services and supervision available in the juvenile system.

Our office has worked collaboratively with the Strawder family over the past several years to advocate for policies that help prevent tragedies like the ones their family experienced. In addition to supporting legislative efforts to enhance penalties for improper handgun storage, we also recognize that in certain circumstances, meaningful intervention and services are the most appropriate response for very young children.



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For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB776.

Sincerely,
Matias C. Cacheiro
Deputy Director of Government Affairs
Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City