



April 1, 2026

**Senate Bill 402 - Residential Child Care Programs - Education of Children and Training of Child and Youth Care Practitioners**

**House Ways & Means Committee**

**Position:** Favorable

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY), we respectfully submit this testimony in general support of Senate Bill 402, as amended. MARFY represents private child-serving providers across Maryland, including Residential Child Care Programs (RCCs), that serve youth with complex behavioral, emotional, and developmental needs.

MARFY is a statewide network of private child-serving organizations dedicated to supporting Maryland's most vulnerable youth. Through more than 200 programs, our members provide foster care, adoption services, treatment foster care (TFC), group homes, and independent living support. Providers serve children and adolescents in out-of-home placements due to abuse, neglect, significant behavioral health challenges, or complex medical needs including youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

MARFY and its members appreciate the thoughtful engagement of both the Senate and House sponsors and their willingness to work collaboratively with stakeholders to refine this legislation. We are grateful for the amendments adopted in both chambers, which reflect provider feedback and better align the bill with current practice and system capacity.

As amended, Senate Bill 402 represents a meaningful step toward codifying best practices and strengthening the workforce that supports youth in residential care. Providers value the continued focus on training, professional development, and ensuring staff are equipped to meet the complex needs of the youth they serve.

MARFY remains supportive of efforts that enhance quality and consistency across the system, particularly where those efforts build upon existing regulatory frameworks and recognize the realities of provider operations. We appreciate the Committee's consideration of these factors and the collaborative approach taken to reach a more balanced and implementable bill. MARFY remains available as a resource as this work continues and looks forward to ongoing collaboration with the General Assembly and stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration.

**For more information call or email:**

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