



*"Being here for Maryland's Children, Youth, and Families"*

**Testimony submitted to Senate Finance Committee**

**Hearing Date: February 27, 2020**

**Senate Bill 795 – Youth Apprenticeship 2.0 Act of 2020  
Support**

The Maryland Association of Youth Service Bureaus, which represents a network of bureaus throughout the State of Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 795 – Youth Apprenticeship 2.0 Act of 2020. This bill will establish a High School Level of Registered Youth Apprenticeship Programs in the Maryland Department of Labor.

Youth Service Bureaus work with at risk youth to prevent further involvement in the juvenile justice system. Youth who are engaged in school and planning for their future are less likely to be delinquent. This bill recognizes that having a craft or skill will afford graduating high school youth a better chance at obtaining employment. The purpose of this bill is to enable high school students to graduate with a certificate of skill in a defined field and real world work experience. The bill also ensures that employers will pay youth at least the minimum wage. We believe this program would encourage youth to stay in school and to graduate with a plan for their future.

We respectfully ask you to **support** this bill.

Respectfully Submitted:

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