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**To:** Members of The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**From:** Family & Juvenile Law Section Council (FJLSC)  
by Ilene Glickman, Esquire and Daniel Renart, Esquire

**Date:** March 3, 2021

**Subject: Senate Bill 905:**  
Juvenile Services – Workgroup to Develop Evidence-Based, Research-Based, and  
Culturally Competent Practices

**Position: SUPPORT**

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The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) FJLSC **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 905 – Juvenile Services – Workgroup to Develop Evidence-Based, Research-Based, and Culturally Competent Practices.**

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Family and Juvenile Law Section Council (“FJLSC”) of the Maryland State Bar Association (“MSBA”). The FJLSC is the formal representative of the Family and Juvenile Law Section of the MSBA, which promotes the objectives of the MSBA by improving the administration of justice in the field of family and juvenile law and, at the same time, tries to bring together the members of the MSBA who are concerned with family and juvenile laws and in reforms and improvements in such laws through legislation or otherwise. The FJLSC is charged with the general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section and authorized to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself could act. The Section has over 1,200 attorney members.

According to the Juvenile Justice Reform Council’s December 2020 Report, the collaborative, as proposed in Senate Bill 905, should be directed to publish descriptive definitions of evidence-based and culturally competent, research-based, and promising practices in the areas of child welfare, juvenile rehabilitation, and children’s mental health services. The collaborative should prepare an inventory of prevention and intervention services that will be periodically updated and should consider the following in its review: a program’s efficacy and cost-effectiveness; assessments that use valid and reliable evidence; and to identify ways to make assessments available to community-based organizations that represent under-served communities.

FJLSC supports these efforts and urges the Committee for a favorable report on Senate Bill 905.



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