



## **SB870: Baltimore City Youth Data Hub – Establishment**

### **House Ways and Means Committee**

**March 31, 2022**

#### **Position: Support with Amendments**

On behalf of the Board of Baltimore's Promise<sup>1</sup> and its hundreds of community partners across the city's public, private, and nonprofit sectors, we write to express our strong support with amendments for SB870, which establishes the Baltimore City Youth Data Hub for the purposes of promoting the well-being of youth and improving access to and cost-efficiency of youth programs.

The Baltimore City Youth Data Hub brings communities, providers, policymakers and researchers into partnership, to make informed decisions as they create and implement programs and policies designed to eliminate disparities and achieve equitable outcomes for the success of Baltimore's youth and families. However, there were a number of amendments made to the crossfile, HB1276, that we urge the Ways and Means Committee to reconsider:

- The definition of provider should be corrected to state “the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City”. Without such a correction, due to the City's agency structures, it would exclude the participation of the Baltimore City Health Department and the Department of Recreation and Parks.
- The definition of provider should also include, at minimum, “any other public or quasi public entity”. To remove this language would then exclude all data sharing with the Baltimore Police Department, the Department of Social Services, and other state agencies.
- The exemptions from the Open Meetings Act and the Public Information Act are necessary so that the executive committee of the Hub can engage in effective evaluation of data requests without violating any privacy protections regarding personally identifiable youth data.
- The language allowing any state or local government entity or quasi governmental entity to provide personally identifiable information and data to the Hub notwithstanding any other provision of law must remain to ensure that the Hub does not violate any conflicting state laws, including laws related to health, educational, and law enforcement data.

We urge the House Ways and Means Committee to give SB870 a favorable report with consideration of these amendments.

---

<sup>1</sup> Baltimore's Promise is a city-wide collaborative that coordinates strategy, identifies quality programs, supports alignment activities, establishes shared measures for meaningful results, builds public will, and advances policy on behalf of Baltimore City's children and youth.