

MARYLAND YOUTH JUSTICE COALITION

January 2026 Newsletter

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MARYLAND YOUTH
JUSTICE COALITION

Happy New Year! Welcome to the January 2026 MYJC newsletter! Each month we assemble all the latest need-to-know news about MYJC and what's happening for youth across Maryland. Please share your community events, local news, needs, and actions with us by emailing gail@advancemaryland.org. Feel free also to forward this newsletter to your network and encourage them to sign up to receive their own copy [here](#).

Did you miss our previous newsletters? Find it and all of our newsletters [here](#).

Not yet a member of MYJC? Email gail@advancemaryland.org today to join.

HIGHLIGHTS

The 2026 legislative session is off to a quick start! Our priority bill has been introduced in both chambers, [SB323/HB409](#). The bill has a new title - **The Youth Charging Reform Act**, and we have a new House sponsor, Delegate Bartlett.

📣 [Please join MYJC in endorsing the Youth Charging Reform Act](#), to limit automatic charging. We would like to get as many endorsements for the bill as possible, which we will post on our website and link to on our fact sheet and testimony. After you endorse, share with other organizations.

MYJC Resource: [2026 Youth Charging Reform Fact Sheet](#)

–Please share this fact sheet with your members, partner organizations, and in any of your advocacy efforts.

We are also tracking other youth justice bills throughout session in the MYJC bill tracker, which will be updated at the beginning of each week.

MYJC Resource: MYJC bill tracker, [here](#).

AHEAD

👤 Join us on February 2nd for Youth Justice Lobby Day! We are lifting up youth voices in Annapolis and bringing constituents from across the state to advocate for limiting the traumatic and racist practice of charging children as adults. We want our legislators to hear directly from you about what your schools, communities and local youth need! [Click here](#) to RSVP.

February 4th, Senate Judicial Proceedings Hearing! We are asking everyone to submit written testimony in support of SB323. Please look out for an email about submitting your organization's testimony in the coming days.

Stay connected with us throughout the legislative session by following us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Bluesky](#), and keep an eye out for our monthly newsletters for the latest updates and action opportunities.

IN THE NEWS

Baltimore and its youth deserve better than false narratives. As part of the youth-led campaign *We Are More*, Youth as Resources (YAR) members Nicolas Johnson-Smith and Faith Walton call on decisionmakers and the community to rethink how they talk about the youth of Baltimore in [this Sun op-ed](#).

Better data, better policies, better outcomes for kids and safety. Youth crime has been on a steady decline, but you might not know it from reading the headlines, writes MYJC's own Robin Campbell, who blames it on a lack of solid data, and calls for state agencies to work together to streamline data and help the public understand. [Read more on Maryland Matters](#).

Youth detention center plagued by mice, unsanitary conditions, improper medical care: report. An independent watchdog documented a litany of disturbing conditions at a detention facility in downtown Baltimore. [Read the article from the Baltimore Banner](#).

Maryland's Department of Juvenile Services says it's working to correct long list of issues in correctional facilities. Fox Tolentino said the agency is working on a slew of issues about rat infestations and inconsistent health care exposed at the state's juvenile detention centers in a report earlier this year. [More details from WYPR.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Death by Numbers – A Documentary Film Screening

Friday, January 30, 1PM
UMB MSTF Leadership Hall
685 W. Baltimore St, Baltimore MD

[Register here](#)

The Shock Trauma Center for Injury Prevention and Policy & the UMB Center for Violence Prevention invite students, employees, friends, and community partners to a **free screening of the documentary Death by Numbers** on Friday, January 30, 2026 at 1pm in the UMB MSTF Leadership Hall. This film turns an intimate lens on school shooting survivor Sam Fuentes' journey to reclaim her power, processing trauma through journaling. The film screening will include a panel discussion with Ms. Fuentes and a member of the documentary's production team. Light reception to follow. For more details and registration information, [click here](#).

THE SHOCK TRAUMA CENTER FOR INJURY PREVENTION & POLICY AND THE UMB CENTER FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION INVITE STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES, FRIENDS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO A **FREE FILM SCREENING** OF

DEATH BY NUMBERS

A school shooting survivor confronts her assailant in a poetic journey to empowerment.

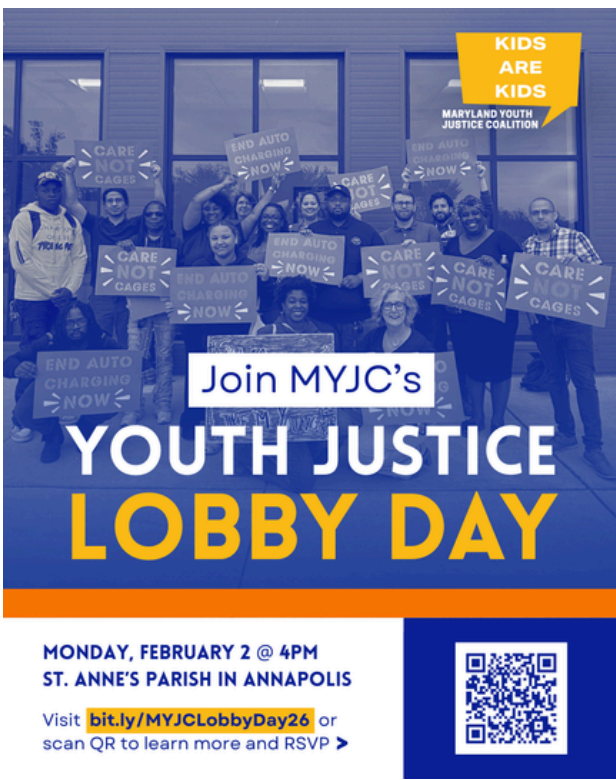
REGISTRATION APPRECIATED
WALK-INS WELCOME

FRIDAY
JAN 30
2026

DOORS OPEN • 1:00 PM
FILM SCREENING • 1:30 PM
LIVE Q&A SESSION • 3:00 PM
RECEPTION • 3:30 PM
MSTF LEADERSHIP HALL

EVENT WILL FEATURE **PARKLAND SCHOOL SHOOTING SURVIVOR SAM FUENTES** AND A MEMBER OF THE PRODUCTION TEAM. LIGHT RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.

R ADAMS COWLEY SHOCK TRAUMA CENTER | UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM | UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE CENTER FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION



MYJC Youth Justice Lobby Day 2026

Monday, February 2, 4PM

St. Anne's Parish

199 Duke of Gloucester St, Annapolis MD 21401

[RSVP here](#)

Join us on February 2 for Youth Justice Lobby Day! This legislative session we are lifting up youth voices in Annapolis, and bringing constituents from across the state to advocate for limiting the traumatic and racist practice of charging children as adults. We also want our legislators to hear directly from you about what your schools, communities and local youth need! Doors open 3:30PM. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

2026 Black Liberation Lobby Day

Thursday, February 19, 8:30AM

Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum

84 Franklin St, Annapolis MD 21401

[Register here](#)

Join Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle for a powerful day of civic engagement. Spots are first come, first serve. Transportation will be provided. [Register here.](#)



Have an upcoming event you want us to highlight in the February newsletter?

Email gail@advancemaryland.org.

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