

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 08-0035R  
(Resolution)**

---

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke, President Rawlings-Blake, Councilmembers D'Adamo, Henry, Young, Cole, Branch, Curran, Holton, Welch, Middleton, Conaway, Reisinger  
At the request of: Advocates for Children and Youth  
c/o Ken Strong, Deputy Director for External Affairs, 8 Market Place, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Telephone: 410-547-8690  
Introduced and read first time: April 14, 2008  
Assigned to: Education Committee

---

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Youth Commission, Health Department

---

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 ***Maryland Can Do Better for Children ! – In Support of Advocates for Children and Youth***

3 FOR the purpose of endorsing the goals and solutions of Advocates for Children and Youth for  
4 improving opportunities for young people and addressing specific deficits in the areas of  
5 education, health, and safety, by 2010; joining the *Maryland Can Do Better for Children!*  
6 campaign; and urging all policymakers throughout Maryland to join the Campaign and an  
7 *army for children* to secure for Maryland's youth the support services they need to thrive and  
8 excel.

9 **Recitals**

10 The Advocates for Children and Youth report that while Maryland is one of the wealthiest  
11 states in the nation, our children are only in the middle of the pack on areas such as education,  
12 health, and safety. The goal of the organization's *Maryland Can Do Better for Children!*  
13 campaign is to improve the outcomes in these areas and to open doors of opportunity for  
14 Maryland's young people, by 2010.

15 In joining the *Maryland Can Do Better for Children!* campaign and the *army for children*,  
16 the following specific goals and comprehensive solutions are endorsed:

- 17 • *Keep Kids Safely in Their Homes and Communities* by creating a continuum of  
18 community-based services so that abused, neglected, or delinquent children are not  
19 unnecessarily removed from their homes or placed in confinement;
- 20 • *Raise the Education Bar* by providing help to struggling students early, at the first  
21 signs of trouble with course work or behavior;
- 22 • *Create Permanent Homes Faster* by promoting child welfare case practice that builds  
23 family teams and links families with services that address underlying needs;

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

**Council Bill 08-0035R**

- 1 • *Support Family Self-Sufficiency* by helping working families to be economically self-  
2 sufficient and to have access to neighborhood-based primary prevention services;
- 3 • *Prevent Child Illness* by increasing access to preventive services that address dental  
4 general physical, and mental health needs; and
- 5 • *Reduce Racial Disparities* by implementing strategies to reduce racial disparities in  
6 child well-being, as identified by the Maryland Children’s Action Network at the  
7 2007 Convention.

8 The Advocates for Children and Youth’s Summer 2007 Report Card documents that there  
9 exists the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest gap nationally between Maryland’s wealth and the KIDS COUNT Child  
10 Well-Being Indicators; that Maryland has the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest achievement gap in the nation for low-  
11 income 4<sup>th</sup> graders and others in reading and math and that the gap is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest nationally  
12 for 8<sup>th</sup> graders; that 70% of low-income children have no dental care; that of the nearly 10,000  
13 children who have been removed from their parents home because of abuse and neglect, 27%, or  
14 twice the number of a decade ago, are living in group homes; and there is a 53% recidivism rate  
15 for youth confined in Maryland’s juvenile justice system 1 year after release – 62% recidivism  
16 for those confined to secure residential programs.

17 Those who embrace the *Maryland Can Do Better for Children!* campaign are asked to sign a  
18 pledge stating that “I want to do my part so that Maryland can transform itself to a national  
19 model for children. I want to use my influence to persuade decision makers to improve  
20 children’s lives.”

21 The Baltimore City Council joins the Advocates for Children and Youth in asserting that  
22 *Maryland Can Do Better for Children!*, encourages other policy and decision makers to support  
23 the goals and solutions of the organization, urges local, state, and federal elected officials to  
24 ensure adequate funding to achieve those goals, and entreats all citizens of the State to provide  
25 financial and volunteer services to improve education, health, and safety outcomes for Maryland’s  
26 youth, by 2010.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That this Body  
28 hereby endorses the goals and solutions of Advocates for Children and Youth for improving  
29 opportunities for young people and addressing specific deficits in the areas of education, health,  
30 and safety, by 2010; joins the *Maryland Can Do Better for Children!* campaign; and urges all  
31 policymakers throughout Maryland to join the Campaign and an *army for children* to secure for  
32 Maryland’s youth the support services they need to thrive and excel.

33 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
34 Governor, the Maryland Delegation to the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress; the Baltimore City Senate and House  
35 Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, the Deputy Director for External Affairs,  
36 Advocates for Children and Youth, the Baltimore City Health Commissioner, the Executive  
37 Director of the Mayor’s Office of State Relations, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City  
38 Council.