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News Release

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New Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Services Confirmed by the Senate

Baltimore, MD (March 25, 2011) – The Senate of Maryland voted today to confirm the nomination of Sam Abed as Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Services ("DJS"). Mr. Abed, who has been the acting Secretary of DJS, was nominated by Governor Martin O'Malley on February 18, 2011.

"I am pleased that the Senate has confirmed Sam Abed as the new Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Services," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Mr. Abed's skills and talents will help us continue the vital progress that we are making to help Maryland's children and make our communities safer. I am grateful that Mr. Abed has chosen to step up and serve the people of Maryland."

Prior to his appointment as Secretary of DJS in Maryland, Mr. Abed served as Deputy Director of Operations at the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice. He was entrusted with direct supervision over the juvenile justice operations, including the supervision of 6 juvenile correctional facilities and 32 court service units statewide. As Chief Deputy Director, Mr. Abed supervised an agency budget of over \$200 million.

Before his time at the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice, Mr. Abed served as a prosecutor in the City of Norfolk and later in Sussex County. He earned a Bachelors of Science in Psychology from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and completed an internship at the American University in Cairo, Arabic Language Institute. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Richmond School of Law. Mr. Abed is currently a resident of Baltimore City.

"I would like to thank Governor O'Malley for giving me the opportunity to move Maryland forward by helping troubled youth and protecting Maryland's communities," said Secretary Sam Abed. "Just in my short time at DJS, I have witnessed the dedication of DJS's employees and their commitment to serve Maryland's most troubled youth," he remarked. "Their dedication bolsters my own desire to do my best for Maryland's youth and ensure that DJS continues to improve."

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