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Juvenile Justice Restoration Act of 2024

Bill Number: SB052
Position: UNFAVORABLE
Committee Chair: Senator Will Smith
Committee Vice Chair: Senator Jeff Waldstreicher
Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee (JPR)

FROM: Ran Zeimer

My name is Ran Zeimer, I am a resident of District 46. I am submitting this testimony against SB052 -Juvenile Justice Restoration Act of 2024,

All of us deserve a life with dignity, respect, and safety. But here in Maryland, some elected officials try to make us fear children keeping us divided and distracted so we won't demand what our families truly need. Jewish tradition teaches that the Divine encompasses both justice and mercy, but these prosecutors and lawmakers scapegoat Black children rather than nurture them as the divine beings we know all children are.

SB52 targets the Juvenile Justice Reform Act and the Child Interrogation Protection Act, two crucial pieces of legislation passed into law in the past few years to protect the rights and dignity of children.

Children must be given the opportunity to speak to a lawyer prior to a custodial interrogation by law enforcement – SB52's stipulation that parents, guardians, or custodians of a child can consent to the custodial interrogation of a child without the child's consultation with an attorney is simply insufficient.

Similarly, efforts to repeal the Juvenile Justice Reform Act through altering the jurisdiction of juvenile court to include jurisdiction over 10-12 year olds alleged to have committed a crime involving the use or possession of a firearm is harmful and flies in the face of recommendations from the [Juvenile Justice Reform Commission](#)).

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on SB052.