

2/13

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Juvenile Law - Custodial Interrogation - Parental Consultation

- **Hearing Date: 2/13**
- **Bill Number: SB120**
- **Position: UNFAVORABLE**
- **Full Bill Name: Juvenile Law - Custodial Interrogation - Parental Consultation**
- **Committee Chair: Senator Will Smith**
- **Committee Vice Chair: Senator Jeff Waldstreicher**
- **Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee (JPR)**

Committees: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Senate Sponsor: Senator Watson

FROM: Ran Zeimer

My name is Ran Zeimer, I am a resident of District 46. I am submitting this testimony against SB120 Juvenile Law - Custodial Interrogation - Parental Consultation

All of us deserve a life with dignity, respect, and safety. But here in Maryland, some elected officials try to make us fear children so they can score political points, 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 as we know all children are.

SB120 targets the Child Interrogation Protection Act, a crucial piece of legislation to protect the rights of children.

We also want to urge the committee to resist any additional efforts to roll back youth justice reforms, like SB120 would do.

Children must be given the opportunity to speak to a lawyer prior to a custodial interrogation by law enforcement – SB120's stipulation that a child can consult with their parent, guardian, or custodian instead of an attorney before a law enforcement officer may conduct a custodial interrogation is simply insufficient.

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on SB120.