

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the Campaign for Justice, Safety, and Jobs. I am a resident of **District 43-A. I am testifying against SB0120 Custodial Interrogation - Parental Consultation.**



**Showing Up for Racial Justice**

This bill would alter the Child Interrogation Protection Act in a way that creates an injustice, by allowing law enforcement to substitute a parent or guardian for access to an attorney.

- Children have the same Constitutional rights to an attorney as adults do. Due Process is the legal requirement that the state must respect a child's right to remain silent and right to counsel.
- Studies show that children waive their Miranda rights at a rate of 90 percent and make false confessions at a much higher rate than adults.<sup>1</sup>
- Children's brains are not fully developed and added to that is the fear and confusion that children face during encounters with police. False confessions not only harm the child but also undermine the police's ability to apprehend the right person.
- Parents too may be fearful of police and just want to have their child home and safe. In the moment many are unlikely to be thinking of the child's constitutional rights and protections..

Finally, if a young mom or dad, whom you know, came to you and said their child had just been taken to a police station for interrogation and they asked you if they should get an attorney for their child, what would you tell that parent? That "Your child will be fine and that you can substitute for the attorney?" That "You probably can get an attorney later on. What would it matter?" And what if it were your child?

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote against **SB0120 Custodial Interrogation - Parental Consultation.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Theresa Columbus  
712 Gorsuch Ave Apt. 1  
Baltimore, MD 21218

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

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<sup>1</sup> <https://abcnews.go.com/US/30000-children-age-10-arrested-us-2013-fbi/story?id=65798787>