

Date of Hearing: February 9, 2024

Barbara Schaffer
Rockville, MD 2050

TESTIMONY ON SB052-UNFAVORABLE
Juvenile Justice Restoration Act of 2024

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Barbara Schaffer

OPENING: My name is Barbara Schaffer. I am a resident of District 17. I am submitting this testimony against SB052, Juvenile Justice Restoration Act of 2024.

I am a concerned citizen about justice for Maryland's children. Along with adults, children deserve a life with dignity, respect, and safety.

This bill undermines several important provisions of the Juvenile Justice Restoration Act and ignores over 20 years of research and data on the most effective ways to hold kids accountable and improve safety. I urge the committee to resist any effort to roll back youth justice reforms, like SB052 would do.

Children must be given the opportunity to speak to a lawyer prior to a custodial interrogation by law enforcement – SB052'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.

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