

KAREN SIMPSON  
*Legislative District 3*  
Frederick County

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Judiciary Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Favorable: HB 445 - Minors Convicted as Adults - Sentencing - Transfer to Juvenile Court**

Hearing on 2/8/2024 at 12:00pm

To: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Fellow Members of the Judiciary Committee

The purpose of HB 445 - Minors Convicted as Adults - Sentencing - Transfer to Juvenile Court is to address the significant impact that traumatic experiences have on children within our criminal justice system.

In 2022, this body passed the Safe Harbor and Service Response initiative, committing Maryland to protecting our most vulnerable citizens. This legislation underscored the state's dedication to combatting child sex trafficking and human trafficking, ultimately highlighting the devastating and long-lasting effects of child exploitation and abuse.

HB 445 builds on this commitment by enabling the court to transfer the sentencing of a minor, charged as an adult, back to juvenile court. If the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the person against which the minor committed a crime was found to have previously committed a sex crime or trafficking crime against said minor, then the court has the discretion to move the minor back to juvenile court to be sentenced.

By allowing the court discretion to review these factors, we recognize the complex dynamics of certain behaviors and the importance of considering these circumstances that offer unique context to each case.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to pass HB 445 as a crucial step to breaking the cycle of revictimizing young people within our legal system. Thank you for your time and consideration.

I ask for a favorable report of HB 445 - Minors Convicted as Adults - Sentencing - Transfer to Juvenile Court.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Simpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and the last name "Simpson" clearly distinguishable.

Delegate Karen Simpson  
Legislative District 3 - Frederick County