

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, February 4  
Name: Edward S. Kraus, M.D.  
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**TESTIMONY ON SB323 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**  
**Juvenile Court - Jurisdiction (Youth Charging Reform Act)**

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

**FROM:** Edward S. Kraus, M.D.

**My name is Edward S. Kraus. I am a resident of District 43. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB323, Youth Charging Reform Act.**

I have been a resident of Maryland since July 1978 and specifically of Baltimore City since 1979. I came to MD to complete my medical training at Johns Hopkins in Nephrology and subsequently have served as faculty at Johns Hopkins until my retirement on September 30, 2023. I am currently a Professor Emeritus. During my entire medical career, I have served patients and their families with chronic kidney disease needing interventions including dialysis and access to transplantation. Many of my patients and their families have struggled with financial hardships, access to education and basic needs of day-to-day living. I worked closely with my pediatric colleagues and have had many patients transitioned to my care in their late teenage years. In addition, I have been very active in the National Kidney Foundation of MD over my entire career including leadership roles. This organization is extremely active in trying to fill the gaps to access of care and resources needed due to socioeconomic barriers.

In my professional career, I have personally taken care of many young patients in their late teens struggling to obtain their care with transportation needs, lack of insurance, lack of social support, and lack of education to understand and cope with their medical challenges to successfully navigate a complex medical system. These issues are not minor but rather have a major impact upon their chances of surviving. I remember vividly one young man who had been incarcerated, interrupting his education, and post release needing enormous help to obtain complex medical care that directly impacted his chances to receive a transplant due to difficulties navigating all the multiple steps. There have been other patients that I have cared for with similar journeys. If they had had more access to education and rehabilitation while incarcerated and spent limited time in prison, I am convinced their long-term health would have improved significantly. This impacts not only these individual patients but also the cost of their care which lessens as they more easily move through the multiple steps posed by the medical system. Passing this Bill is absolutely imperative to give young people with major chronic medical challenges a chance to survive!! I urge that it be passed!

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB409/SB323.**