



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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March 2, 2020

Delegate Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary
Vice Chair, Judiciary

Dear Chair, Clippinger and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland has voted to offer **favorable** support for HB 1338- Criminal Law Felony Murder- Limitation and Review of Convictions for Children. The purpose of this legislation is to alter provisions of law related to murder in the first degree as it relates to children.

This bill allows the state to correct harm it has done to African American children by eliminating the "Felony Murder Theory" of first degree murder as it applies to children and allows the incarcerated person who was a child at the time of the offense to file a motion for review of conviction.

We feel this legislation is important because there are African American inmates who were incarcerated as children and will now receive a second chance. In addition, it aligns with the Black Caucus mission of supporting criminal justice reform. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports HB 1338.

Respectfully,

Darryl Barnes
Chair, Legislative Black Caucus
of Maryland

Edith Patterson
1st Vice Chair, Legislative Black
Caucus of Maryland