



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D.
Director

February 17, 2021

SB 494

Hon. Will Smith
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Smith:

The Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (MC CJJ) is writing in support of SB494 – (Juvenile Restoration Act). The MC CJJ believes that this bill will support Maryland's continued fight at a fair justice for all. The MC CJJ further believes this bill will benefit imprisoned people of color, who continue to be over-represented in the Juvenile Justice system when compared to white counterparts. By increasing the parole and reduction of sentencing opportunities for youth of color who are now full-grown adults, this bill we hope will be able to be the fresh start some of these men and women have been working to achieve.

MC CJJ was established to advise the Montgomery County Executive, County Council and the Juvenile Court on matters concerning juvenile justice. Our work includes gathering and disseminating information from public and private agencies serving youth, monitoring the Juvenile Justice System, visiting facilities, and closely following State and County legislative proposals affecting juveniles. MC CJJ is comprised of citizen members who serve three-year terms without compensation, and agency members that includes Child Welfare, State's Attorney's Office, Office of the Public Defender, Montgomery County Police, Montgomery County Public schools, and Department of Juvenile Services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Jennison, Chair
Commission on Juvenile Justice