



Anne Arundel County Branch Youth and College Division # 7719

"Freedom Fighters of the New Century."

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To: Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Harold Lloyd, III. I am the President of the Anne Arundel County NAACP Youth and College Division and I represent the youth of the Maryland State Conference of the NAACP. We respectfully submit our support for HB315 titled an Act concerning "*Juvenile Interrogation Protection*".

As a body of youth, many from impacted communities, we understand how easy it is for bad officers to take advantage of youth. We believe that the children in Maryland are some of the most underrepresented, underserved, and marginalized groups. Therefore, we have a moral obligation to protect persons who are marginalized no matter the circumstances.

Research shows that juveniles differ from adults in the way they behave and make decisions. This biological difference is explained in an American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry article titled *Teen Brain: Behavior, Problem Solving, and Decision Making* which states that because children's brains are still developing it can hinder their ability to fully comprehend intricate processes. As a matter of fact studies have shown that their brains continue to mature and develop throughout childhood, adolescence and well into early adulthood. This is related to the area of the brain that controls our reasoning. In addition, many of our youth experience fear and intimidation when they are in the presence of law enforcement, something that makes them extremely vulnerable, which is something many abusive law enforcement officers are aware of.

This bill will help protect all Maryland children from being abused and or taken advantage of by the criminal justice system regardless of how educated and aware they may or may not be are about their protected rights. Therefore, we must ensure that our children are not alone when they are facing interrogation and HB 315 will act as a vanguard to any child subject to detainment by police.

We are asking each of you to please consider a positive report for HB 315, our youth future relies on it.

President - Harold Lloyd: Harold Lloyd