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TO: The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: SB0703 – Juvenile Law – Community Detention (Support)

The Office of Attorney General urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 703, Chairman Smith's legislation to permit children over whom a court exercises criminal jurisdiction the opportunity to be "placed in the home of a parent, guardian, custodian, or other fit person, or in shelter care, as a condition of probation or as an alternative to detention." See Sec. 3-8A-01. (h)(1), as amended by SB 703. As noted in our Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit's numerous successive reports,¹ community detention leads to much more favorable outcomes for juveniles than shipping them off, far away from their families.

For the foregoing reason, we urge a favorable report on SB 703.

cc: Committee Members

¹ See generally, Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit Reports from 2010 – 2022 online here:
<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/JJM/Reports.aspx>.

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or sbrantley@oag.state.md.us