



February 09, 2023

**House Judiciary Committee,**  
Chairman, Luke Clippinger

**Support of HB0358 – Dept. of Juvenile Services – Juvenile Felony Database**

Attention Chairman Clippinger, Vice-Chair Moon and members of the committee:

I am writing to express my unyielding **support for HB0358 Department of Juvenile Felony Database**. Simply put, this bill will require the Department of Juvenile Service, in coordination with the Administrative Office of the Courts, to create a unique database and system that would track juvenile felony convictions and make it more accessible to the public.

This legislation would enhance a currently antiquated system enabling the system to be more user-friendly and providing data such as prior convictions/offenses committed by juveniles, as well as other important information necessary for my ASA's including showing the locality where the offense took place, the date the offense happened, and a detailed report of said offense.

The Baltimore City State's Attorney Office believes having such a database will assist each of our law enforcement partners when trying to access juvenile data to bring the appropriate charges against an individual who's been arrested for a serious felony crime. Our office also believes this database would provide the community the necessary insight and information about crimes committed by juveniles in their community.

This bill would also allow for public knowledge on the sentences being handed down for crimes committed by juveniles, and if the efforts of diversion programs are truly working, showing us if intervention is having any behavior effects on these juveniles. Currently DJS provides only data detailing the age, race, gender and jurisdiction of a juvenile offender. The data reported by DJS does not allow for the identification of individual youth, their families, or any information regarding crime victims or witnesses.

This bill forbids the release of any identifying information regarding the juvenile, including their name, age and home address of the juvenile being convicted of the crime. This legislation is the perfect structure of information on a need to know basis for the public and brings some control back to the community to understand the impacts juveniles are having on their neighborhoods.

Again, I would urge a favorable vote on this bill, and thank you for considering this legislation. I pray for your continued health and well-being, and I celebrate the service you provide to our great state, and the level of engagement and commitment you provide to our communities on a daily basis.

STATE'S ATTORNEY  
IVAN J. BATES



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY  
120 EAST BALTIMORE STREET | BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

DIRECT DIAL  
443-984-6000

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "I. Bates", written over a horizontal line.

Ivan J. Bates, Esq.  
State's Attorney for Baltimore City