

3/2/2023

Kate Sugarman
Potomac, MD 20854

TESTIMONY ON HB96- POSITION: FAVORABLE
Juvenile Court – Jurisdiction (Youth Equity & Safety Act)

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Kate Sugarman

OPENING: My name is Kate Sugarman. I am a resident of District 15. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB96, Juvenile Court - Jurisdiction.

As a physician who lives in Montgomery County MD I know all too well the horrors and injustices of charging teens as adults.

It is well known to physicians that a young adult's brain is not fully formed until the age of 25 years old. Therefore it is most certainly unjust to charge a minor as though he or she is an adult.

I also know well as a physician that incarcerating teens has a lifelong detrimental effect. Teens who break the law need help, support, mental health services and rehabilitation. They do not need incarceration which generally makes it more likely that they will break the law in the future.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB96.