

# **Letter of Support for Senate Bill 0073 - City of B**

Uploaded by: City Council Bowie

Position: FAV



# City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way  
Bowie, Maryland 20716

February 2, 2024

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Maryland State Senate  
c/o Senator William C. Smith, Jr.  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 0073 - Reporting on Juvenile Firearm Offenses

Dear Senator Smith,

I am writing on behalf of the City Council of the City of Bowie to express our strong support for Senate Bill 0073, which aims to require the Department of Juvenile Services to report to the General Assembly annually on the number of assessments completed during the intake process involving children who commit firearm offenses.

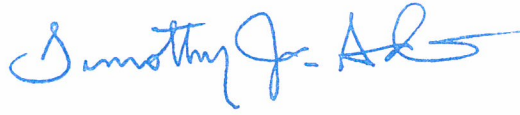
Ensuring the safety of our community, particularly when it comes to offenses involving firearms, is of utmost importance to the City of Bowie. We believe that Senate Bill 0073 will contribute significantly to enhancing transparency and accountability in the handling of juvenile firearm offenses.

By mandating the Department of Juvenile Services to provide comprehensive reports to the General Assembly, this legislation will empower policymakers with the necessary information to assess the effectiveness of current procedures and identify potential areas for improvement. Such data-driven insights are crucial in developing evidence-based policies that address the unique challenges associated with juvenile firearm offenses.

We appreciate the dedication of the Judicial Proceedings Committee to promoting public safety and fostering a fair and just juvenile justice system. The reporting requirements outlined in Senate Bill 0073 align with our commitment to creating a secure environment for our residents, and we believe this measure will contribute to the overall well-being of our community.

As elected representatives of the City of Bowie, we urge you to support Senate Bill 0073 and work towards its passage. We are confident that this legislation will serve as a positive step towards a safer and more informed juvenile justice system.

Sincerely,

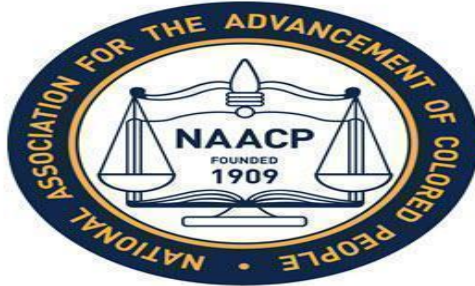
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bowie City Council  
Timothy J. Adams  
Mayor

# **SB 0073 Favorable vote.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ryan Coleman

Position: FAV



# Randallstown

**P.O. Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133**

**Feb 12, 2024**  
**Immediate Release**

**Contact: Ryan Coleman, President**  
[randallstownnaacp@gmail.com](mailto:randallstownnaacp@gmail.com)

## **Randallstown NAACP supports SB 0073-Department of Juvenile Services - Firearm Offenses - Reporting**

Randallstown MD-Baltimore County residents have serious concerns with the operation of DJS, their ability to safeguard and correct young people. Many members do not believe the information coming from DJS. Therefore, this bill will allow greater transparency which is helpful for all.

SB 0073 opens access to all Maryland students. **The Randallstown NAACP requests a favorable vote on SB 0073.**

# **SB73 - Unfavorable OPD.pdf**

Uploaded by: Alycia Capozello

Position: UNF



**NATASHA DARTIGUE**  
PUBLIC DEFENDER

**KEITH LOTRIDGE**  
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

**MELISSA ROTHSTEIN**  
CHIEF OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**ELIZABETH HILLIARD**  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

### POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

**BILL:** Senate Bill 73, Department of Juvenile Services – Firearms Offenses – Reporting

**FROM:** Maryland Office of the Public Defender

**POSITION:** Unfavorable

**DATE:** 2/12/2024

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender seeks an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 73, Department of Juvenile Services – Firearms – Reporting. The intention of this bill is unclear as the term "assessments" is undefined. For example "assessments" may refer to the intake decisions DJS makes using its own decision-making tool or it may mean something else. Additionally, no matter the definition of "assessments, this bill is unnecessary as a check on DJS's authority to informally adjust firearms cases through pre-court supervision. According to the DJS Resource Guide for FY 2023, only 0.8% of handgun cases were placed on pre-court supervision. Moreover, under current law, if DJS recommends pre-court supervision for handgun possession or a Crime of Violence, DJS must forward the case to the State's Attorney's Office (SAO) for approval. SAO makes the final determination as to whether the case is handled through pre-court supervision or charged through a delinquency petition.

For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges this Committee to issue an unfavorable report on SB 73.

Submitted by: Alycia Capozello, Deputy Public Defender for Baltimore City,  
Alycia.capozello@maryland.gov; Jeremy Zacker, Assistant Public Defender,  
Jeremy.Zacker@maryland.gov

# **SB 73\_Final.pdf**

Uploaded by: Karalyn Aanenson

Position: INFO





DEPARTMENT OF  
JUVENILE SERVICES

Aruna Miller  
Lt. Governor

Wes Moore  
Governor

217 East Redwood Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Vincent Schiraldi  
Secretary

Date: February 13, 2024  
Bill Number/Title: SB073 - Department of Juvenile Services - Firearm Offenses - Reporting  
Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee  
DJS Position: Letter of Information

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SB 73 requires the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) to report to the General Assembly by January 1st each year on the number of assessments completed by the department during the intake process involving children who commit firearm offenses.

First, DJS is committed to ensuring that community members, justice system stakeholders, and decision-makers have access to relevant juvenile justice system information and data. To that end, DJS publishes the annual Data Resource Guide (DRG) which contains in-depth information related to DJS practices, data, and outcomes. Specifically, the DRG contains data related to the number of complaints received by the Department for firearm offenses, the Department's decisions, and the outcome of the matter. Additionally, all assessments DJS utilizes can be found on the DJS website.

Lastly, DJS is required by law to complete an inquiry/assessment of the child when a complaint is received. Moreover, if the complaint alleges a firearm offense, DJS must forward the intake decision to the State's Attorney for their review.

