



# Randallstown

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

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**Immediate Release**

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

## **Randallstown NAACP supports SB 0314-Juvenile Law - Willful Misconduct of a Minor - Civil Liability of a Parent, Legal Guardian, or Custodian (Parental Accountability Act)**

Randallstown MD-Statewide, between fiscal year 2021 and fiscal year 2023, among juveniles: gun violations rose 220%, carjackings spiked 85%, and auto theft complaints increased 65%, according to the state's Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). Violent gun crime committed against young people has "increased significantly," especially in Baltimore City. DJS is failing with holding juveniles accountable and ensuring they get the resources not to reoffend.

Three major theories support parental accountability laws. The first theory is that such laws are necessary to further the juvenile justice system's goals of rehabilitating children and deterring future delinquent behavior. The second theory is that parental accountability laws are demanded by our societal norms. These norms recognize the importance of parental leadership and dignity but also require that "bad" parents be sanctioned for their parenting lapses. The third theory holds that courts can play a positive role by supporting parental authority and by imposing sanctions on children who engage in negative behavior. This theory is an important underpinning to status offender laws that help parents control disobedient children who refuse to conform their behavior to rules established by parents and society.

SB 0314 makes all three theories a reality. **The Randallstown NAACP requests a favorable vote on SB 0314.**