

Bill# SB0744/HB0814 Miner L. Brown Unfavorable

Position: Unfavorable

Member or supporter of CASA Allies, JUFJ & Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle

Senate Sponsor: Senator President Ferguson and Senator Will Smith

Senate Committee Vice-Chair: Senator Jeff Waldstreicher

Senate Committee: Judicial Proceedings Committee/ House Judicial Committee

Sponsor: House Speaker Jones and Delegate Clippinger

Testimony

I and many knowledgeable community leaders are OPPOSED to this proposed legislation. Why is Key State leadership in such a hurry to undue a justice for youth by returning to the past with no firm evidence to do so? This Bill, with its mis-leading name and regressive direction on being rushed through the Legislature, will only bring more harm to our community's most precious possessions- our youth. The facts show that the current law developed by a large diverse membership of well- respected local/ State experts, effective in 2022, is working!

Juvenile arrests are down from pre-Covid, and the required over-worked members of the Juvenile Division of the MD Office of Public Defender are being responsive to youths' real needs. Legislators should be spending their time, and our tax dollars, passing proactive measures at the "front end" of helping youth and their families, not spending their political time responding to inaccurate, hate-filled "sensationalized" biases, coming from such places as FOX 45. Returning to the ineffective "old way of controlling them" by increasing the jailed population of youth only increases our tax-payers expense at almost \$150,000 per year, per youth. This is crazy! Put the money in various diversion programs where it can do some positive good for our youth, families, and community.

Thank you.

Miner L. Brown

Member, District 11 for over 34 years