

SB744 Judicial Proceedings Testimony (In Favor)

Leif Powers (Columbia, MD)

Members of the Committee, my name is Leif Powers, appearing in a personal capacity, and I've lived in Columbia for more than a decade. However, in support of SB744, I wish to convey the experience of one of my co-workers, who has been suffering the consequences of the current policy of impunity.

My co-worker lives a few blocks away from a well-known educational institution in Baltimore. He drives a Kia.

The "kids", repeatedly have stolen his car. Even the spots where they drop the cars when they're done with them, are well-known to the residents and police of the neighborhood. Many contributing factors led to this state of affairs – but the current law and enforcement posture that lets youthful criminals carry on like this, is a primary cause.

These problems are not unique to my co-worker, or to Baltimore, or to Maryland; for example, similarly lenient policies and practices have been enabling car theft sprees in the District of Columbia for years now. These outcomes easily were predictable, and they again have been the result in Maryland. If we want Maryland to be the place to live, we have to pass SB744 so my co-worker has a car to drive to the office. Thank you for listening.