



## Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice

**February 8, 2024**

**Informational Testimony on HB814**

Delegate Luke Clippinger  
Chair, Judiciary Committee  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Delegate Clippinger:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (MC CJJ) on House Bill 814, Juvenile Law – Reform.

MC CJJ was established to advise the Montgomery County Executive, County Council and the Juvenile Court on matters concerning juvenile justice. Our work includes gathering and disseminating information from public and private agencies serving youth, monitoring juvenile justice programs and services, visiting facilities, closely following relevant State and local legislation, and making recommendations regarding juvenile needs. MC CJJ is composed of appointed, volunteer citizen members, and agency members that include the Child Welfare Services Program, the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, the Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services.

The MC CJJ would like to take a position on this bill and provide comments on how the changes it would make are likely to affect children in Maryland, the operation of the juvenile justice system, and public safety. However, we are unable to do so because there has not been adequate time to review the bill in depth or to discuss it with our members. The hearing was scheduled just a week after HB814 was introduced and, prior to its introduction on January 31, there was virtually no information available to the public about the proposals under consideration or opportunities to provide comments on the specific changes that would be made by the bill. This is disappointing because the bill seeks to undo important reforms enacted in 2022 that were the product of years of study and debate by a group of distinguished experts, advocates, and legislators, a body that was established by law to advise lawmakers in the MGA.

Therefore, we strongly urge the Committee to afford all stakeholders a meaningful opportunity to provide input before scheduling a vote on the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Redden".

Kevin Redden, Chair  
Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice

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**Local Behavioral Health Authority • Behavioral Health and Crisis Services**

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