



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

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House Bill 814
In Support of
Juvenile Law – Reform
Judiciary Committee
Hearing: February 8, 2024 – 12:00

Dear Honorable Delegate Clippinger, Chair, Honorable Bartlett, Vice-Chair, and distinguished Judiciary Committee members,

MRSPA supports legislation to reduce crime and violence against Maryland citizens as one of its highest priorities. Maryland citizens are painfully aware of the rise in juvenile crime such as carjacking and assault directed towards both working and retired adults particularly in Baltimore City and Washington D.C.

Commendably, Maryland has in the past pursued a path emphasizing restorative justice in addressing these crimes with the hope of redirecting youthful perpetrators toward a “better vision for the future”. But it is clear to anyone that a measure of accountability is now needed to allow law enforcement to effectively fulfill its mission to protect law abiding citizens by keeping juvenile offenders, once apprehended, off the streets until they are tried and appropriately sentenced by a court of law. Too many juvenile offenders to this point have been arrested and summarily released to prey once again upon vulnerable persons, among them our more elderly.

MRSPA believes it is time to strengthen Juvenile Laws to protect the people of our state from what has become an uncontrolled crime wave by juveniles that has resulted in loss of property, personal injury, and sometimes death to those having the temerity to resist.

On behalf of the 12,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we urge support of HB 814.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Carla J. Duls in black ink.

Carla J. Duls
President

Handwritten signature of Virginia G. Crespo in blue ink.

Virginia G. Crespo
Legislative Aide