



House Bill 1433
Chairman; Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary
February 26, 2025 1 p.m.
(Wicomico County NAACP)

Dear Chairman Luke Clippinger and Members of the Committee,

I am Monica Brooks and I represent Wicomico County NAACP. I am writing to express my strong support for HB-1433. When young people are transferred out of the juvenile system, they are more likely to be convicted and typically receive harsher sentences than youth who remain in juvenile court charged with similar crimes.

This practice undermines the purpose of the juvenile court system, pursues punishment rather than rehabilitation, and conflicts with what we know from developmental science. Furthermore, laws that allow youth to be tried as adults reflect and reinforce the racial inequities that characterize the justice system in United States

The punitive mindset that promotes the notion of “adult crime, adult time” has led to serious consequences, most notably the loss of judicial discretion. This law has become a blunt instrument that disregards the unique circumstances of youth. There are always unique circumstances. Many states have already rescinded these types of practices. They have brought back compassion for the individuals and families affected. It is time for Maryland to follow suit.

While we acknowledge the necessity of accountability for young people, we must also recognize that many lack positive influences and resources. Compassion should guide us in allowing judges the discretion to determine the appropriate venue for young offenders, whether juvenile or adult court, on a case-by-case basis.

I urge you to support HB-1433 to end the harmful practice of charging children as adults in Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration.

Monica Brooks
President
Wicomico County NAACP