



**Youth As Resources, Inc. (YAR)**  
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### **Judiciary Committee**

**HOUSE BILL 622: Juvenile Law - Custodial Interrogation (Juvenile Justice Restoration Act of 2025)**

**DATE: February 24, 2025**

**POSITION: OPPOSE**

Youth As Resources (YAR) is a youth-led organization dedicated to grant-making, leadership development, community organizing, and institutional change. We empower ourselves and our peers to address the root causes of pressing issues through training, organizing, collaboration, and funding.

Our 22-member Board of Directors, all Baltimore City youth aged 14-24, governs the organization and oversees two grant cycles per year, fund development, program priorities, and outcome evaluation. Each year, we adopt an issue agenda based on our lived experiences and those of our peers. For FY 2025 (July 2024 – June 2025), our focus areas include school police accountability, school climate, youth homelessness, and mental health/disability awareness.

Youth As Resources strongly opposes HB 622, which would eliminate the requirement for law enforcement to contact an attorney when a child is taken into custody, allowing an interrogation to proceed with only parental consent.

Our Miranda Rights belong to us—not our parents. Parents or guardians may not have the legal expertise to properly advise us. They can be misled or pressured. We need an advisor who understands the law. Furthermore, some children do not have parents who are available, and some parents may not have their child's best interests in mind. Others may fear that refusing consent could lead to consequences for themselves.

Police officers often use confusing tactics, false promises, and threats during interrogations. This creates immense stress for both youth and parents, leading to false confessions. Children and parents whose first language is not English are even more vulnerable without an age-appropriate explanation of our rights. Studies show that children are three times more likely to falsely confess during custodial interrogations than adults.

We need and deserve a thoughtful, protective adult who can explain our rights in a way we understand. False confessions harm children, jeopardize our futures, and do nothing to support public safety or solve crimes.

For the sake of children, youth, and public safety, we urge you to oppose HB 622. Thank you.