



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF MARYLAND

The Maryland Episcopal
Public Policy
Network

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB0622

**Juvenile Law - Custodial Interrogation (Juvenile Justice
Restoration Act of 2025)**

**** OPPOSE ****

TO: Senator William C. Smith, Chair, Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Co- Chair and the members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd., Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: February 26, 2025

The Episcopal Church at large and the Diocese of Maryland in particular have embraced the concept of reparations, a concept not limited to financial considerations but to a leveling of the playing field across a broad spectrum of issues, including juvenile justice. Research shows that juveniles who are incarcerated make them more likely to be arrested for new offenses. Because Black and brown children are more likely to be incarcerated, this Bill will exacerbate the serious racial disparities in Maryland's juvenile justice system. We believe that placing the burden on the juvenile without addressing the underlying causes of racial disparities cannot be tolerated. Addressing the underlying causes is long overdue. Every ten years or so, there is a push for "law and order" that is a band aid only and does not try to remedy or repair that damage done by years of slavery, Jim Crow, red-lining, etc. Every person should have the right to counsel pursuant to the sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article 21 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights. This is even more important with juveniles. No one should be able to waive their right to counsel.

Rather than putting the burden on the child, addressing the underlying causes would be a step in repairing (reparations) the damage done by a decades long policy of mass incarcerations.

The Diocese of Maryland requests an unfavorable report.

4 E UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, BALTIMORE, MD 21218-2437
TEL: 410-467-1399 / 800-443-1399 FAX: 410-554-6387
WWW.EPISCOPALMARYLAND.ORG