



**TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB0441:
Minors Convicted as Adults - Sentencing - Transfer to
Juvenile Court
FAVORABLE**

TO: Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair, J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair, and members
of the Judiciary Committee
FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy
Network, Diocese of Maryland
DATE: February 6, 2025

This bill introduces new provisions for sentencing minors who have been convicted as adults, focusing on providing greater judicial flexibility and protection for young offenders. Specifically, the bill allows courts to impose sentences less than the minimum term required by law and prohibits sentencing minors to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole or release. Additionally, the bill creates a mechanism for transferring a minor's case back to juvenile court under specific circumstances: if clear and convincing evidence shows that the victim of the minor's offense had previously committed a sex crime or human trafficking against the minor within three months before the current offense.

When such a transfer occurs, the juvenile court is required to make a juvenile disposition, which typically involves rehabilitative approaches tailored to the developmental needs of young offenders.

Juveniles, as children of God, deserve protection, dignity, respect and love. This Bill would promote that by giving the juvenile certain protections and the rehabilitative services of the juvenile court.

We respectfully request a favorable report.