



VISION - BRIDGE Maryland sees the state challenged by a history of inequity but engaged in community organizing for a more just tomorrow.

MISSION - BRIDGE Maryland uses intentional relationship building, organizing, and intensive leadership development in order to strengthen congregations and faith leaders to demonstrate and advance justice in the world.

HB622 Juvenile Law - Custodial Interrogation UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Bartlett, and members of the committee,

On behalf of BRIDGE Maryland, Inc., a statewide interfaith organization, we do not support HB622 for the following reasons. Are we trying to subvert the Fifth Amendment rights of children now because that is how this bill is written? Some of the parents and guardians consulted in this bill also fall into the category of brain development concerns we articulated to pass the Child Interrogation Protection Act (CIPA). Likewise, C.I.P.A. works in the best interest of the child and that's what laws should do, protect the vulnerable.

The Child Interrogation Protection Law is designed to explain to a child in legal terms, at their age level, what it means to speak to law enforcement and state attorneys. Are we saying that parents are lawyers now? I have four degrees including a doctorate, and some legal terms still baffle me. This bill is simply an attempt to dismantle a child's Constitutional 5th Amendment right! Please do not let the false bravado that parents and/or guardians know the best for their children in one of the most important decisions they will make for their future.

Maryland's youngest citizens need safeguards against unwarranted system involvement. It is key to breaking institutional cycles of poverty and marginalization. Making that determination requires a proper understanding of the law and legal procedure that defense attorneys can provide. We urge you to vote unfavorable to HB622.

Sincerely

Rev. Dr. Marlon Tilghman

Bridge Maryland Executive Board Member at Large