

Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee is in strong support of HB 588. This bill is urgently needed to improve the safety, well-being, and educational outcomes of students who are involved in the justice system. By mandating the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) notify local school authorities about students' arrests for reportable offenses, the bill ensures that schools can take proactive steps to provide appropriate educational programming and support services.

This bill enhances the communication between the Department of Juvenile Services, local schools, and educational staff. By sharing this crucial information, schools are equipped to address the academic and behavioral needs of at-risk students, preventing further disruptions and promoting safer, more supportive school environments. Furthermore, the bill ensures that educational programming continues for students who are incarcerated, preventing them from falling behind academically and offering rehabilitation opportunities. The inclusion of this essential notification system between juvenile services and schools will significantly contribute to creating a more integrated and rehabilitative system for youth.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 588. It is a necessary step toward creating a more responsive and supportive system for students affected by the justice system. Thank you for your time and consideration.