

Board of County Commissioners

Kenneth A. Kiler, President
Joseph A. Vigliotti, Vice President
Thomas S. Gordon III
Michael R. Guerin
Edward C. Rothstein



Carroll County Government

225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978
fax 410-386-2485
MD Relay 711/800-735-2258

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office building
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Committee:

We write in support of **HB 831: Carroll County—Prospective Employees and Volunteers—Criminal History Records Check**, sponsored by the Carroll County Senators on our behalf. This bill expands the County Government's authority to conduct criminal history record checks for all prospective county employees and volunteers, ensuring a more comprehensive and consistent background screening process.

Currently, Carroll County's Department of Human Resources (HR) may only request criminal history records checks from the Central Repository for prospective employees or volunteers assigned to positions involving:

- Inspections
- Approval or denial of permits, licenses, or other grants of authority
- Work in the offices of the county commissioners, sheriff, state's attorney, circuit court, or county attorney
- Collecting or handling money
- Care or supervision of a minor

HB 831 removes outdated restrictions on background checks, aligning Carroll County with best practices in employment and community service. A standardized screening process enhances public trust and safety by ensuring all individuals working for or volunteering in the county are properly vetted.

Current Background Check Process:

The HR Office conducts and maintains criminal background checks. When a report is obtained, HR contacts the applicant to discuss any findings and allows them to provide additional details. HR then evaluates multiple factors—such as the nature of the offense, rehabilitation, and time elapsed—before making a hiring decision.

Why This Bill Matters:

Many Maryland counties already conduct criminal background checks for all prospective employees, including Allegany, Baltimore County, Harford, Kent, Cecil, Caroline, Dorchester, and St. Mary's Counties. Expanding Carroll County's screening process ensures:

- **Safety and security** for employees and the public
- **Reduced risk of theft or fraud**
- **Protection against negligent hiring claims**
- **Increased public trust and confidence**

For these reasons the Board respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE report on HB 831.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY



Kenneth A. Kiler
President



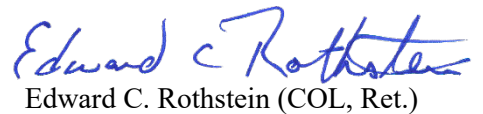
Joseph A. Vigliotti
Vice President



Thomas S. Gordon III



Michael R. Guerin



Edward C. Rothstein (COL, Ret.)