



**Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee** respectfully requests an **Unfavorable Report** for **HB 0197**, cross filed with SB 0068: Public Schools - Restorative Practices Schools - Comprehensive Plan.

There is not a one size fits all discipline solution for every school district. We are witnessing a crisis of safety in our classrooms that is only being exacerbated by the ideological adherence to Restorative Justice Practices. Schools must be able to determine the discipline policies that work and should not be forced to accept a flawed political agenda as the basis for their discipline policy.

The concern for repeat offenders should not trump all the other students in the classroom. We must be considerate of the safety of all the students, teachers and staff. All students deserve to have a safe learning environment. Restorative justice as a discipline strategy for violent behaviors does not improve student outcomes and does lead to a much more chaotic, dangerous, and in some cases, deadly school environment. <https://www.dailysignal.com/2023/03/16/restorative-justice-is-killing-american-classrooms/>

Rigorous research has shown restorative justice to be far less effective than its proponents had hoped and promised. <https://fordhaminstitute.org/national/commentary/restorative-justice-isnt-working-thats-not-what-media-reporting>

A recent Gonzales poll shows a majority of Marylanders are in favor of stricter laws to deal with the crisis in juvenile crime exploding across our state. Quoting from the poll:

“Overall in Maryland, 58% favor laws that are strict, which hold juveniles responsible and accountable for their behavior, while 34% desire laws that are lenient, determining that society is at fault for much of the objectionable behavior of juveniles, with 8% providing no response.

A majority of nearly every demographic group backs strict laws to best assist our juvenile offenders ultimately realize at least a chance at a successful, happy life.”

<https://www.marylandmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Gonzales-Poll-Part-1-Maryland-Statewide-February-2024.pdf>

Also from this poll:

“There is a glaring disagreement between Black and White Democrats:

- 57% of white Democrats favor lenient laws to deal with juveniles who’ve committed crimes
- 63% of black Democrats favor strict laws to deal with juveniles who’ve committed crimes”

The people of Maryland have spoken. They are demanding stricter laws for dealing with violent juvenile offenders. This bill is a step in the wrong direction and is not in line with opinion of the citizens of this state.

**Moms for Liberty Maryland respectfully requests an Unfavorable Report for HB 0197.**