

SB0296_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON SB#0296 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Juveniles - Detention and Confinement - Limitations on Juvenile Contact With
Incarcerated Adults

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0296, **Juveniles - Detention and Confinement - Limitations on Juvenile Contact With Incarcerated Adults**

The Center on Juvenile Justice & Criminal Justice has studied how placement of juveniles in contact with adult convicts is dangerous to them and society at large. Their report *The Risks Juveniles Face When They Are Incarcerated With Adults*¹

Close to a century ago, the juvenile justice system was developed because children were subjected to unspeakable atrocities in adult jails, and were returned to society as hardened criminals. As the system developed, it became clear that housing young offenders and adult prisoners together was self-destructive and self-defeating.

... Child advocates, law enforcement officials, and criminologists have urged [legislative bodies] to consider the destructive effects of placing youth in adult jails and prisons. A substantial body of research shows that placing youth in adult institutions accentuates criminal behavior after release.

This bill recognizes the problem chronicled in multiple studies and works towards a solution. The bill will take positive action by altering and establishing certain provisions relating to the detention, confinement, and transportation of children arrested, convicted, or awaiting trial for certain offenses.

We can and must prevent juveniles from having contact that teaches them lessons in crime and work towards rehabilitation solutions instead.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0296.

¹ https://www.cjcj.org/media/import/documents/the_risks.pdf