



OUT FOR JUSTICE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 296

Juveniles - Detention and Confinement - Limitations on Juvenile Contact With Incarcerated Adults

TO: Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: **Trina Selden**, Founder and Executive Director, Out For Justice

DATE: **February 4, 2026**

My name is **Trina Selden**, and I am the Founder and Executive Director of **Out for Justice, Inc.**, a community-based organization dedicated to engaging, educating, and empowering people impacted by the legal system to build collective power, reduce recidivism, and dismantle harmful and exclusionary policies. I submit this testimony in **strong support of Senate Bill 296 Juveniles - Detention and Confinement - Limitations on Juvenile Contact with Incarcerated Adults**.

Out For Justice strongly supports SB0296, which places critical limits on contact between youth and incarcerated adults. Through our direct work with impacted youth, families, and communities, we see firsthand the harm caused when young people are exposed to adult incarceration environments. Youth are especially vulnerable to trauma, coercion, and abuse when in contact with incarcerated adults, which undermines their safety, well-being, and chances for rehabilitation.

At Out For Justice, we know youth involved in the criminal justice system are fundamentally different from adults in both development and vulnerability. Allowing contact with incarcerated adults exposes young people to increased risk of physical harm, trauma, and negative behavioral influences, undermining rehabilitation and long-term public safety. Research consistently shows that juveniles held or housed in adult settings experience higher rates of mental, sexual, and physical abuse and poorer outcomes.

At its core, **SB296 affirms the state has a vested interest AND duty to protect youth in its care**. SB0296 reflects best practices in youth justice by prioritizing safety, age-appropriate treatment, youth development, accountability, rehabilitation and healing over punishment. By limiting juvenile contact with incarcerated adults, Maryland takes an important step toward protecting youth, reducing recidivism, and promoting healthier outcomes for young people and communities alike. **Limiting juvenile contact with incarcerated adults is another critical AND necessary step toward a more just and humane youth justice system and supports long-term public safety by reducing harm and recidivism.**

For these reasons, **Out for Justice strongly urge a favorable report on SB296.**



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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Trina Selden
Founder and Executive Director
Out For Justice