

**SB 537:** Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund - Establishment: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose SB 537**, concerning the *Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund – Establishment*.

While the goal of reducing youth delinquency is important and widely shared, **SB 537 raises significant concerns regarding funding structure, oversight, and measurable outcomes**. Creating a new state fund without clear accountability standards and demonstrated evidence of effectiveness risks duplicating existing programs and expanding bureaucracy without guaranteeing improved results.

Maryland already allocates substantial resources toward youth services, community intervention programs, and juvenile justice initiatives. Before establishing a new fund, the State should first evaluate the effectiveness of current programs, ensure existing resources are being used efficiently, and identify specific gaps that truly require new appropriations.

**SB 537 does not sufficiently demonstrate how the proposed fund will deliver measurable, data-driven improvements beyond what current programs provide.** Without clearly defined performance metrics, and fiscal safeguards, taxpayers may bear additional costs without meaningful impact.

Additionally, creating a new dedicated fund can reduce legislative flexibility in future budget cycles and limit the ability to prioritize resources based on changing needs and outcomes.

Addressing youth delinquency requires thoughtful, evidence-based strategies and strong accountability—not simply the creation of another funding mechanism.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose SB 537**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals