

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HB 449 Juvenile Justice Restoration Act

Position: Unfavorable

BY: Lois Hybl

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As an individual representative of my church to BRIDGE Maryland, I oppose HB 449 the Juvenile Justice Restoration Act which authorizes a law enforcement officer to conduct an otherwise lawful custodial interrogation of a child if the child's parent, guardian, or custodian consents to the custodial interrogation of the child without the child's consultation with an attorney.

The Child Interrogation Protection Law is designed to explain, in legal terms at a child's age level, what it means to speak with law enforcement and state's attorneys. It is often difficult for an educated adult to understand legal terms. Please do not dismantle a child's Constitutional 5th Amendment right! Please do not let parents alone make one of the most important decisions for their child's future.

Maryland's youngest citizens need safeguards against unwarranted involvement in the legal system. It is key to breaking institutional cycles of poverty and marginalization. Making that determination requires a proper understanding of the law and legal procedure that defense attorneys can provide.

Please give an unfavorable report to HB 449.

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