



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

April 02, 2026

The Honorable Sandy Bartlett  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB524 Juvenile Records Access by Baltimore City Mayor's Office

Dear Chairwoman Bartlett, Madame Vice Chair, and Honorable Members of the  
Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express our strong opposition to SB524. For the record, the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office is opposed to both SB524 and HB1145, and would like to articulate the opposition of the Maryland Judiciary as well, for various reasons, which start and end with the federal and state protections of juvenile records. Courts have long recognized that juveniles have greater prospects for reform than adults, making public disclosure of their records more likely to harm rehabilitation.

We submitted written opposition to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee during its hearing on this cross-filed bill on Thursday, February 19, 2026. The House Judiciary Committee also heard testimony on HB1145 on February 26, 2026, at which time we submitted the same letter of opposition. And while we were opposed then, we are even more so now given the newly revealed information revealed in the recent Office of Inspector General report\* that has come out since these hearings, highlighting the fact that a member of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement was said to have illegally released over 700 juvenile offender's names, arrest records and other sensitive information\*\* that speaks to the very issue we have been making in our opposition to this legislation.

Before you consider voting on this legislation, we would ask that you consider that SB524 specifically proposes to expand a specifically tailored statute aimed at authorizing the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice to obtain access to confidential records of juveniles, to now expand that authorization to three city entities that are not city chartered agencies, which include: the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE), the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success (MOCFS), and the Mayor's Office of African American Male Engagement (MOAAME).



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This means that the existing state statute does not currently authorize MONSE to have collected this juvenile data\*\*\*, but clearly they have been doing so since 2022 and admittedly through 2025, and as seen in the OIG report, irresponsibly allowed for the release of this sensitive data to those who were not authorized to have it. And now they are asking for that group to have further access to juvenile records, and to also include two other city entities to also have that access, even further eroding the sanctity of these records and increasing the likelihood that these records can be fraudulently or illegally released and obtained by a third party.

We believe that given the fact that none of these entities seeking to gain access to juvenile records are law enforcement agencies, access to such information should be restricted and based on the consent of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJS) via a previously signed Memorandum of Understanding. DJS has a long-standing partnership with the Mayor's Office and remains the leading agency in our state when dealing with juvenile records and diversion programs, and we believe that they are the responsible party able to issue such records on a limited basis per an agreement with one city agency.

Juvenile records have remained confidential for a reason and given the uncertainty that remains regarding MONSE's Side-Step program, cases being diverted without victims of those crimes being notified, juvenile data possibly shared with non-profit organizations chosen to provide services to these juveniles, and there being no clear data or information showing if the participants involved successfully completed said programming; we ask that you act with an abundance of caution before giving access to such sensitive information to city entities with no clearly defined structure or oversight.

We stand in opposition to SB524 as written and ask that you hear from DJS on where they stand on this critical piece of legislation, as we would wholeheartedly support their recommendations as it relates to this bill. We also ask that this information continue to be provided to those of us in law enforcement agencies, who are tasked with holding juvenile offenders accountable for their actions, and responsible to the victims of the crimes committed by these youth.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our recommendations on this legislation, and I pray that you seriously consider all the voices weighing in on this critically important bill. I will continue to hold you up in prayer as you continue serving the interests of your constituents during this 90-day legislative session, and want to personally thank you for your service to the citizens of Baltimore City.



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Sincerely,

## Hassan Giordano

Hassan Giordano  
Chief, External and Government Affairs

*\*Copy of the OIG Report regarding MONSE and their Side-Step program and the unauthorized release of 701 juvenile names and records - [https://s3.amazonaws.com/baltimorecity.gov.if-us-east-1/s3fs-public/2026-03/synopsiss\\_final\\_o.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/baltimorecity.gov.if-us-east-1/s3fs-public/2026-03/synopsiss_final_o.pdf)*

*\*\*The OIG found that a MONSE employee sent a diversion table containing post-arrest diversions with approximately 701 names, many of which were juveniles, to a personal google email (Gmail) account. The Gmail account appeared to belong to a relative of the employee. In addition to juvenile names, the diversion table sent contained cases from 2018 to September 2022 with individuals' date of births and charges.*

*According to the State Law that provided the carve-out exception, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice "shall be liable for the unauthorized release of a police record it accesses under this subsection" (Exhibit 9). Due to the data breach of juvenile information, the OIG has referred this matter to law enforcement. MONSE's SOP for Apricot are a one-page document with website links shown in Figure 2.3*

*\*\*\*The City's Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) was allowed to access juvenile records due to a 2019 bill that named MOCJ as an exception (carve-out exception) to the State of Maryland law regarding the Confidentiality of Juvenile Records. No other local municipal government is listed in the carve-out exception. In December 2020, the City replaced MOCJ as a City agency with MONSE, but the law was never changed to reflect the agency change. MONSE continued to access juvenile records based on the carve-out exception in the law during the SideStep program.*

*This OIG Report is a public synopsis and only a summary of a more comprehensive report of investigation submitted to the appropriate City management official.*