



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Commission on Juvenile Justice

Marc Elrich  
*County Executive*

James C. Bridgers, Jr. Ph.D., MBA  
*Director*

January 29, 2026

**HB123 -- Unfavorable**

Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
130 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Delegate Wilkins:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (MC CJJ) in opposition to House Bill 123.

MC CJJ was established to advise the Montgomery County Executive, County Council and the Juvenile Court on matters concerning juvenile justice. Our work includes gathering and disseminating information from public and private agencies serving youth, monitoring juvenile justice programs and services, visiting facilities, closely following relevant State and local legislation, and making recommendations regarding juvenile needs. MC CJJ is composed of appointed, volunteer citizen members, and agency members that include the Child Welfare Services Program, the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, the Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services.

School systems already receive information on serious student arrests to ensure safety and make appropriate educational adjustments. Expanding notifications risks compromising confidentiality and may lead to harmful consequences, such as unnecessary school removals based solely on arrests.

We are also concerned about racial disparities. In the 2023–24 school year, Black students and students of two or more races accounted for 74% of arrests for reportable offenses, despite representing only 38% of the statewide student population. Boys comprised 73% of arrests but only 51% of students, and students with disabilities represented 39% of arrests while making up just 13% of the population.

For these reasons, we respectfully request an **Unfavorable** report on House Bill 123.

Sincerely,  
*Melissa Goemann*  
Melissa Goemann, Co-Chair  
Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice

**Local Behavioral Health Authority • Behavioral Health and Crisis Services**