



Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform

Dear Senator

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr.
Co-Chairman Jeff Waldstreicher

I write to you on behalf of Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform with a request: please schedule a vote for an important bill now waiting in your JPR committee.

As one judge in the Juvenile system notes: "On a few occasions, I had children as young as 6 years-old brought into my courtroom on juvenile charges. Such cases clearly represented failures of parenting, not children in need of State sanctions. More appropriate responses involve referral of such parents to behavioral management."

HB 1187 seeks to keep juveniles 12 year and younger out of Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) custody, direct more 'informal adjustments' of nonviolent misdemeanors, and limit the duration in which DJS may keep other youth in detention and on probation.

Thank you for your help to keep our criminal justice system functioning fairly and efficiently for all Marylanders, despite these difficult times.

Sincerely,