



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D.
Director

February 24, 2021

HB 180

Hon. Luke Clippinger
Room 101
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Clippinger:

The Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (MC CJJ) is writing in opposition of HB 180 – Juveniles - Sexting. The MC CJJ opposes this bill because it does little to address the concerns expressed by the Court of Appeals in *in re S.K.*, 466 Md. 31 (2018). Further, the bill not only fails to adequately remedy the issue of criminal liability of a victim of revenge porn but would still allow for that victim to be ordered to register on the State's sex offender registry. This disposition in itself is a punishment which is equal to, and in some cases is greater than, a criminal punishment which could have been imposed.

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 the Juvenile Justice System, visiting facilities, and closely following State and County legislative proposals affecting juveniles. MC CJJ is comprised of citizen members who serve three-year terms without compensation, and agency members that includes Child Welfare, State's Attorney's Office, Office of the Public Defender, Montgomery County Police, Montgomery County Public schools, and Department of Juvenile Services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Jennison, Chair
Commission on Juvenile Justice