



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D.
Director

February 24, 2021

HB 672

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

Dear Chairman Clippinger:

The Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (MC CJJ) is writing in opposition of HB 672 – Department of Juvenile Services – Juvenile Offense Database. The bill fails to identify a purpose for the proposed data collection, and it is the MC CJJ’s position that, despite anonymization, the information collected may be used to further harm demographics which are already disproportionately affected by the juvenile justice system. Any proposed data collection should include parameters for use as well as how the data collector will properly dispose of the data at an appropriate time.

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.

We strongly urge your support for this bill as the State should not be operating in conflict with Constitutional limitations on sentencing. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Jennison, Chair
Commission on Juvenile Justice