



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood

Committee: Judiciary

Testimony on: SB0053 – Juvenile Law – Juvenile Interrogation Protection Act

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 23, 2022

Bill Contact: Senator Jill Carter

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 3000 members across all districts in Montgomery County as well as a number of nearby jurisdictions. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep residents healthy and safe in a clean environment and which promote equity across all our diverse communities. DTMG strongly supports SB0053 because it will require basic protections for children who are taken into custody by law enforcement.

SB0053 will strengthen and clarify the requirements for parental notification and legal representation for children taken into custody by law enforcement, including school resource officers. Specifically, SB0053 will require:

- law enforcement to notify parents or guardians of a child that they have the child in custody, including the child's location, the reason for the child being taken into custody, and how to make immediate in-person contact with the child.
- for the child to have an opportunity to consult with an attorney before law enforcement can interrogate the child.
- the recording of custodial interrogations of children.

Children are vulnerable and lack the developmental maturity, experience, and perspective necessary to withstand interrogation by authorities when faced with criminal accusation. The commonsense measures in SB0053 will protect children from false confessions, which are very common in custodial interrogations when parents or counsel are not present.

Therefore, DTMG strongly supports SB0053 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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