



TESTIMONY FOR SB0053

Juvenile Law - Juvenile Interrogation Protection Act

Bill Sponsor: Senator Carter

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0053 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This law protects Maryland children, plain and simple. Under current law, a minor can be interrogated by law enforcement personnel without a lawyer or a parent knowing that the interrogation is taking place. This puts the child into a situation where they can easily be intimidated into saying things that they would not say if someone was standing up for their rights.

This bill would require that a law enforcement officer who takes a child into custody, interrogates, or charges a child with a criminal violation, to provide reasonable notice to the child's parents, guardian, or custodian. It prohibits the interrogation of a child by the law enforcement officer until the child has consulted with an attorney and a notice has been provided to the child's parents, guardian or custodian

How much sense does this make? We should give children the same rights and privileges as adults and protect them from intimidation that could result in their futures being compromised.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.