

HB814\_Berger\_UNFAV

February 8, 2024

Zackary Berger

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**TESTIMONY ON HB814 - POSITION: UNFAVORABLE**  
**Juvenile Law - Reform**

**TO:** Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Zackary Berger, MD, PhD

I am Zackary Berger, a resident of District 43A and a supporter of a Baltimore, and Maryland, which seeks a better life for all its residents through supportive services, not wasteful and oppressive carceral systems that we know to be ineffective. As a public health expert, I can tell you that putting more adolescents in jail does not work.

The passage of juvenile justice reform measures last year was a success for the Maryland legislature and demonstrated that we do not have to be in the company of regressive states when it comes to helping youth with problems; we do not need to meet violence with violence or succumb to the myth making of media.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB814.**

**Zackary Berger, MD, PhD**