



MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411
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February 8, 2024

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Lisa Radov, President and Chair, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.

Re: Juvenile Law – Reform – HB 814 -Support

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chair of Maryland Votes for Animals. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Judiciary Committee vote favorably for Juvenile Law – Reform – HB 814.

This bill outlines many reforms to our current juvenile laws. Maryland Votes for Animals supports these improvements to the system to allow youths to be held accountable and get the support and rehabilitation that they need after committing a serious crime as outlined in the bill.

As an organization dedicating to improving the lives of animals in Maryland, we want to highlight our support for this bill as it allows 10-12 year olds to be charged with a list of serious crimes *including animal abuse*. We feel that this addition will make not only our animals, but also our communities, safer as these 10-12 year olds who are charged can get the support they need in the form of rehabilitation and go on to lead productive lives.

In closing, I would like to thank The Speaker and Chair Clippinger for their sponsorship of HB 814 and ask the committee to give this bill a favorable report.