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March 30, 2023

Sen. Floyd Prozanski

Rep. Paul Evans Rep. Kim Wallan

Sen. Dennis Linthicum

Re: Opposition to SB 337

Dear Sen. Prozanski, Rep. Evans, Rep. Wallan, and Sen. Linthicum,

I am an attorney with the Juvenile Defenders of Linn County. I have been part of a consortium providing juvenile defense services in Linn County for 11 years. Before that, I was a member of the Linn County Adult Criminal Defense Consortium for 15 years. I join in the written testimony submitted by my colleagues in opposition to SB 337.

Over the years, we have worked closely with OPDS and have faithfully adhered to strict guidelines. We implement best practices and were one of the first consortiums that participated in the PCRP pilot project, the current statewide model. An enormous amount of time and effort have been spent getting juvenile defenders and their staff up to speed with PCRP reporting requirements. Many people were hired to support statewide implementation of that Program. The PCRP delivery model benefits families. I believe dismantling the juvenile defense consortium delivery model would be counter productive for the reasons stated. It's frustrating to think that after years of careful planning and collaboration, what has been created and what we continue to work on improving may be dismantled with the stroke of a pen. Please don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. No pun intended.

Sincerely, Jacet Despessor Janet Boytano