

JUSTIN D. ROSS
22nd Legislative District
Prince George's County

CHIEF DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Ways and Means Committee



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 151
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3652
800-492-7122 Ext. 3652
Fax 301-858-3699
Justin.Ross@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

June 16, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today to express my support for Take Charge, Juvenile Diversion Program Inc., a non-profit group from Prince George's County which focuses on behavior modification, family strengthening, and prevention programs for at-risk youth. For over twenty years, this organization has acted as an alternative to disciplinary measures, such as suspension and detention, in Prince George's County Schools.

Take Charge has a variety of programs, such as the in-school Brotherhood and Sisterhood Leadership Program and Gang prevention program, in addition to workshops and forums that are hosted in high-crime areas throughout the County. The objective of these initiatives is to change student's negative attitudes and low self-esteem by providing a nurturing, productive space in which they can experience both personal growth and academic improvement.

The Take Charge program is a crucial component in efforts to help at-risk youth and prevent crime. While the Prince George's County Police Department and School System have made great strides in reducing truancy and juvenile offenses, traditional disciplinary measures are simply not enough to solve the problems our County is facing. The core values and sense of self-sufficiency that Take Charge instills helps to make participants responsible members of their community and better students.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the Take Charge Program. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 301-858-3652.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin D. Ross".

Delegate Justin D. Ross
District 22
Prince George's County