



The Fairfax County Democratic Committee Opposes Attorney General-elect Miyares' Declared Priority to Solicit Legislation Limiting Commonwealth Attorneys' Discretion Over Prosecutions Within Their Local Jurisdictions

Whereas,

Reforming Fairfax County's criminal justice system to treat all residents -- regardless of race, income, or zip code -- equally is a bedrock priority of our party.

This priority was advanced through the election of reform-oriented Commonwealth's Attorney Stephen Descano in 2019, who has kept his campaign promises to stop requesting cash bail, issue landmark sentencing reforms aimed at reducing mass incarceration, and begin scaling a data operation targeted at mitigating racial disparities, among other significant policies.

Fairfax County Democrats and the wider Fairfax community continue to support criminal justice reform, as affirmed most recently by Data for Progress' poll on related issues released in October 2021 and by Fairfax voters granting anti-reform Attorney General-elect Jason Miyares just 34% of their votes in the November 2021 election.

Attorney General-elect Miyares, in concert with Governor-elect Youngkin, has announced that his top legislative priority is passing a bill that would limit local commonwealth's attorney's discretion such that law enforcement can refer cases directly to the Attorney General in an effort to curb criminal justice reform in Fairfax County and other Northern Virginia communities.

Such a law would constitute an unparalleled and unconstitutional power grab that prioritizes the policy agenda of Attorney General-elect Miyares' far-right political allies over the will of Fairfax County voters.

Such a law would undermine the democratic process in a manner consistent with the increasingly anti-democratic tendencies of the national Republican Party by limiting the authority of locally elected commonwealth's attorneys to enact the policy agendas their communities elected them to pursue.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee opposes Attorney General-elect Miyares' effort to curb the advancement of much-needed criminal justice reforms by limiting the discretion of local commonwealth's attorneys.

PASSED and APPROVED on this 11th day of January 2022.