

SUSAN K. MCCOMAS
Legislative District 34B
Harford County

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Family Law

Public Safety

Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee

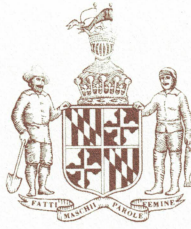
Joint Committees

Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review

Legislative Ethics

Past President

Women Legislators of Maryland



The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 323
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3272 · 301-858-3272
800-492-7122 Ext. 3272
Fax 410-841-3202 · 301-858-3202
Susan.McComas@house.state.md.us

District Office
P. O. Box 1204
9 West Courtland Street
Suite 100
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-836-9449 · 410-838-5187
Fax 410-838-5768

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB820 CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT – TRAINING

Modeled after language already in Health Occupations Article, 1-801 in sequence, this bill passed the House unanimously last year. The language, as currently proposed, reflects the final amended version that passed last year. At a time when we have never been more aware of the prevalence of child abuse, training is so IMPORTANT. Resources for such training and the conduit for that information remains a cornerstone in the detection and prevention of child abuse. Trainings on how to recognize and report child abuse will expose monsters like Dr. Nassar who thrive in an atmosphere of misinformation, which enables them to operate with minimal chances of detection.¹ Never has it been more clear that training is imperative as some of his horrific acts of child abuse took place with the parents in the room!!!!

Child abuse experts know firsthand the impact that such abuse of our children has on society as a whole. More importantly, they also understand the importance of appropriate training to improve the outcomes for child victims. Training for mandated reporters must be made available to assure timely and appropriate reporting.

WHAT WE KNOW

Many health care professionals have been incorrectly instructed on how to report abuse. Many health care professionals are misinformed about their responsibilities as Mandated Reporters. Some do not know what to look for or how to react when abuse is detected.

PREVENTION IS IMPERATIVE – KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Let's support and pass **HB820** and make such training available and easy to find for our mandated reporters and others who work with children. Let's partner with our Health Care Professionals and give them the tools they need as the "first responders" for our children. They are our most valuable and irreplaceable asset as Marylanders.

The BCAC (Baltimore Child Abuse Center) understands and supports this important legislation. The House of Delegates has passed this bill nearly unanimously in 2018 and unanimously in 2019. This year, let's make sure this bill becomes law for the sake of the children.

¹ Lawrence Gerard Nassar is an American convicted serial child molester who was the USA Gymnastics national team doctor and an osteopathic physician at Michigan State University. In July 2017, Nassar was sentenced to 60 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to child pornography charges. In January, 2018, Nassar was sentenced to 40 to 175 years in a Michigan state prison after pleading guilty to 7 counts of sexual assault of minors. In February, 2018, he was sentenced to an additional 40 to 125 years in prison after pleading guilty to an additional 3 counts of sexual assault. His federal and state sentences are running consecutively.

**Maryland House of Delegates
2018 Regular Session**

HB 600

Third Reading (HB) Calendar No.89
Del. McComas et al
Child Abuse and Neglect - Training

(JUD)

On Third Reading

135 Yeas 1 Nays 2 Not Voting 0 Excused 3 Absent

Voting Yea - 135

Speaker Busch	Clippinger	Hill	Luedtke	Reznik
Adams	Cluster	Holmes	Malone	Robinson
Afzali	Conaway	Hornberger	Mautz	Rose
Ali	Corderman	Howard, C.	McComas	Rosenberg
Anderson	Cullison	Howard, S.	McConkey	Saab
Anderton	Davis	Impallaria	McCray	Sample-Hughes
Angel	Dumais	Jackson	McDonough	Sanchez
Arentz	Ebersole	Jacobs	McIntosh	Shoemaker
Atterbeary	Fennell	Jalisi	McKay	Sophocleus
Aumann	Fisher	Jameson	McMillan	Stein
Barkley	Flanagan	Jones	Metzgar	Sydnor
Barnes, B.	Folden	Kaiser	Miele	Szeliga
Barnes, D.	Fraser-Hidalgo	Kelly	Miller, A.	Tarlau
Barron	Frick	Kipke	Miller, W.	Turner
Barve	Frush	Kittleman	Moon	Valderrama
Beidle	Gaines	Knotts	Morales	Valentino-Smith
Beitzel	Ghrist	Korman	Morgan	Vogt
Branch	Gibson	Kramer	Mosby	Waldstreicher
Bromwell	Gilchrist	Krebs	Otto	Walker
Brooks	Glass	Krimm	Patterson	Washington, A.
Buckel	Glenn	Lafferty	Pena-Melnyk	Washington, M.
Carey	Grammer	Lam	Pendergrass	West
Carozza	Gutierrez	Lewis, J.	Platt	Wilkins
Cassilly	Hayes	Lewis, R.	Proctor	Wilson
Chang	Haynes	Lierman	Queen	Wivell
Ciliberti	Healey	Lisanti	Reilly	Young, K.
Clark	Hettleman	Long	Rey	Young, P.

Voting Nay - 1

Parrott*

Not Voting - 2

Morhaim Vallario

Excused from Voting - 0

Excused (Absent) - 3

Carr Hixson Simonaire

**Maryland House of Delegates
2019 Regular Session**

HB 1252 Third Reading (HB) Calendar No.97
Delegate McComas et al (JUD)
Child Abuse and Neglect - Training of Health Care Professionals

On Third Reading

137 Yeas 0 Nays 3 Not Voting 0 Excused 1 Absent

Voting Yea - 137

Mr. Speaker	Charkoudian	Hartman	Long	Rogers
Acevero	Charles	Haynes	Lopez	Rose
Adams	Chisholm	Healey	Love	Rosenberg
Anderton	Ciliberti	Hettleman	Luedtke	Saab
Arentz	Clark	Hill	Malone	Sample-Hughes
Arikan	Clippinger	Holmes	Mangione	Shetty
Attar	Conaway	Hornberger	Mautz	Shoemaker
Atterbeary	Corderman	Impallaria	McComas	Smith
Bagnall	Cox	Ivey	McIntosh	Solomon
Barnes, B.	Crosby	Jackson	McKay	Stein
Barnes, D.	Crutchfield	Jacobs	Metzgar	Stewart
Bartlett	Cullison	Jalisi	Miller	Sydnor
Barve	Davis, D.E.	Johnson	Moon	Szeliga
Beitzel	Davis, D.M.	Jones	Morgan	Terrasa
Bhandari	Dumais	Kaiser	Mosby	Turner
Boteler	Ebersole	Kelly	Otto	Valderrama
Boyce	Feldmark	Kerr	Palakovich Carr	Valentino-Smith
Branch	Fennell	Kipke	Parrott	Walker
Bridges	Fisher, M.	Kittleman	Patterson	Washington
Bromwell	Fisher, W.	Korman	Pena-Melnyk	Watson, C.
Brooks	Fraser-Hidalgo	Krebs	Pendergrass	Watson, R.
Buckel	Gaines	Krimm	Pippy	Wells
Cain	Ghrist	Lafferty	Proctor	Wilkins
Cardin	Gilchrist	Lehman	Qi	Wilson
Carey	Glenn	Lewis, J.	Queen	Wivell
Carr	Grammer	Lewis, R.	Reilly	Young, K.
Cassilly	Guyton	Lierman	Reznik	Young, P.
Chang	Harrison			

Voting Nay - 0

Not Voting - 3

Anderson Barron Lisanti

Excused from Voting - 0

Excused (Absent) - 1

Howard