



BILL NUMBER: SB 81

TITLE: *Criminal Law – School Resource Officers – Prohibition on Sexual Activity with Students*

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings Committee

HEARING DATE: January 27, 2026

POSITION: Support

TurnAround strongly supports Senate Bill 81, *Criminal Law – School Resource Officers – Prohibition on Sexual Activity with Students*, currently before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. This important legislation would prohibit law enforcement officers assigned as school resource officers from engaging in sexual acts, sexual contact, or intercourse with students enrolled in the schools where they serve.

School resource officers play a vital role in ensuring safety and building trust between law enforcement and students. It is essential that these adults are held to the highest ethical and legal standards—especially given the inherent power dynamics and vulnerability of young people in school settings. SB 81 helps ensure that students are protected from abuse of authority and exploitation by individuals entrusted with their safety.

This bill reinforces the message that schools must be safe spaces free from misconduct and abuse. By explicitly prohibiting sexual conduct between school resource officers and students, Maryland stands with other jurisdictions that have adopted similar safeguards to protect youth. Strong legal protections like SB 81 also strengthen community trust in law enforcement institutions and send a clear message that professional boundaries are non-negotiable.

Moreover, this legislation aligns with Maryland’s long-standing commitment to protecting children’s rights and fostering environments where all students can learn without fear or harm. Implementing SB 81 would help prevent instances of abuse, provide clarity around prohibited conduct, and support accountability for individuals who violate these critical standards.

For these reasons, TurnAround urges the Judicial Proceedings Committee to vote in support of SB 81. Thank you for your attention to this vital issue and for your service to the people of Maryland

About TurnAround, Inc.

TurnAround, Inc. is the designated rape crisis center for Baltimore City and Baltimore County and a comprehensive domestic violence service provider, serving survivors at the most critical moments of their lives. The organization delivers 24-hour crisis response, survivor-centered advocacy, legal referrals, trauma-informed therapy, and prevention education throughout the community.

TurnAround also serves as the Regional Navigator for Baltimore and Howard Counties, coordinating specialized services for survivors of human trafficking. In addition, TurnAround operates Maryland's first residential program specifically designed for children who have been trafficked, providing a safe, therapeutic environment where youth can begin healing and rebuilding their lives.

TurnAround is a proud member of the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA), the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV), and the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children (CPMC), and is committed to advancing policies that protect vulnerable youth and strengthen survivor safety statewide.

For further questions, please contact Amanda Rodriguez, Esq., Chief Executive Officer, at arodriguez@turnaroundinc.org, or Jean Henningsen, Chief Communications Officer, at jhenningsen@turnaroundinc.org.