

HB 329 - Criminal Law - School Resource Officers - Prohibition on Sexual Activity with Students

Position - Favorable

February 20, 2026

To the Chair and Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

My name is Lesley Frost and I am the Chair of National Council of Jewish Women, Maryland State Policy Advocacy Committee (NCJW MD SPA) and I am writing on behalf of our 600 advocates across the state in support of HB 329 - Criminal Law - School Resource Officers - Prohibition on Sexual Activity with Students

HB 329 closes a loophole in Maryland's sexual offense statute. It clearly defines who is a school resource officer and expands existing statutory prohibitions on specific sexual activity for law enforcement officers to include sexual contact, vaginal intercourse, a sexual act with a student enrolled in a school where the officer serves as a "school resource officer." The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

NCJW is the oldest Jewish grassroots organization in the USA and our support for HB 329 is based on our Jewish values that tell us to "Uphold the rights of the vulnerable child" and our NCJW Resolutions - 11.1 "Laws, policies, programs and services that protect and provide age appropriate agency for every child and youth from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation, bullying, discrimination, harassment and violence."

We therefore urge you to continue to make students safe from sexual offenses and report favorable on HB 329.

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