

THE COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND'S CHILDREN

Our Mission: To combine and amplify the power of organizations and citizens working together to keep children safe from abuse and neglect.

We strive to secure budgetary and public policy resources to make meaningful and measurable improvements in safety, permanence, and wellbeing.



HB0329 – Criminal Law – School Resource Officers – Prohibition on Sexual Activity with Students
House Judiciary Committee
February 24, 2026

Position: SUPPORT

The Coalition to Protect Maryland’s Children is a consortium of organizations and individuals formed in 1996 who are concerned about the care of Maryland’s most vulnerable children and work together to promote meaningful child welfare reform. CPMC **urges a favorable report on HB0329 - Criminal Law – School Resource Officers – Prohibition on Sexual Activity with Students.**

HB0329 seeks to 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. The measure would further ensure that students are protected from abuse of authority and exploitation by individuals entrusted with their safety.

A gap was identified in Maryland’s "sexual extortion" and "breach of trust" laws regarding law enforcement officers. Existing Maryland law (Criminal Law § 3-314) already prohibits law enforcement officers from engaging in sexual activity with victims, witnesses, suspects, or people in their custody. However, it did not explicitly include students at schools where an officer is assigned as a school resource officer, provided the student wasn't technically in "custody" or part of an "investigation." HB0329 makes it clear that sexual contact between school resource officer and a student is criminal, by establishing that such contact committed may be subject to a misdemeanor offense punishable by up to 3 years in prison, regardless of any allegation of “consent”.

For the reasons above, the Coalition to Protect Maryland’s Children **urges a favorable report on HB0329 - Criminal Law – School Resource Officers – Prohibition on Sexual Activity with Student.**¹

¹ Members of CPMC represented by this written testimony include: Arrow Child & Family Ministries, Center for Hope, Child Justice, Court Appointed Special Advocates (Baltimore County), Everstand, Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth, Maryland Children’s Alliance, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, National Association of Social Workers – MD Chapter, State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN), TurnAround, Inc. and other individual members of the coalition.