



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

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Senate Bill 0481

In Support Of

Criminal Law – Crime of Violence – Vulnerable Adult

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Hearing: February 13, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

Dear Honorable Senator Luke William C. Smith, Chair, and Honorable Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair, and Distinguished Judicial Proceedings Committee members,

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA) Legislative Priorities include preventing abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and supports legislation to reduce crime and violence against seniors.

We urge your support of SB 0481 Criminal Law – Crime of Violence – Vulnerable Adult. This bill alters certain definitions of “crime of violence” to include a certain offense of abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult in the first degree; and, generally relating to crimes of violence.

This bill pertains specifically to one of the priorities of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association — “preventing abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults”.

Specifically it:

- Redefines the terms “abuse” and “neglect” as it applies to “vulnerable adults”
- Restates “crimes of violence” as applicable to “vulnerable adults” as “abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult in the first degree”

It should be noted that this bill is one of several being proposed in this session of the legislature related to the prevention of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults. This bill and others like it, recognizes the concern for the protection of the elderly from abuse, exploitation and neglect. This population is steadily increasing in Maryland and the nation.

On behalf of the almost 14,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we urge your support of SB 0481.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Downey
President

Virginia Crespo
Legislative Aide