

To Whom It may Concern,

This letter is being written in regards to a HB0211 that is in front of Maryland state legislature.

I wish to give you my short story. Roughly 10 years ago, my daughter, who was about 8 years old told me that while playing outside in our cul de sac, the man across the street exposed himself to her. I assured her that this was not so, that we live in a community of homes that are 2+ acres and that if he was cutting his grass, he probably had to go pee pee and that is unfortunate that she saw him. That if it happened again to let mommy know. Well it happened again, but because I did not believe her, she did not tell me. Then it happened again, while she was with a friend and they came back and told me. I talked to the girls about it and about lying and spoke with the other child's father. Never ever dreaming of what was transpiring in our own affluent neighborhood. We decided that if they saw him they were to go the other way and if they ever saw anything else to let us know. Remember, I did not know about the second time. Forward a few months and this monster that lived directly across from me had exposed himself to most of the little girls in our neighborhood and eventually got caught. Officers, Court, and I did not listen or believe my child. I taught her right from wrong, she knew what she saw and told, like she was supposed to. I live with this every day. Thankfully, exposure was the only thing this creepy monster did, but who knows what else would have come about. This bill, this new law is needed in this state. I will advocate for it forever! Thank you to our delegates who are willing to put the community needs first in our state.

Dawn Garland