



Families Advocating  
Intelligent Registries

PO Box 8402 Elkrige, MD 21075 ♥ 800-708-8535 ♥ info@fairregistry.org

**HB 501  
Opposed**

**Opposed Response to House Bill 501  
Criminal Law – Child Pornography and Exhibition and Display of  
Obscene Items to Minors**

Families Advocating Intelligent Registries (FAIR) has a special concern for persons accused and convicted of sexual offenses, and seeks rational, constitutional sexual offense laws and policies. House Bill 501 has taken a very thorough approach to carving out an exception for young people sexting with other young people, in an effort to prevent one-time offenders from ending up with a criminal record and being placed on the sexual offense registry. Unfortunately there are a host of problems. Several are listed below.

- The exceptions made for a juvenile sharing images and videos are completely overbalanced by the many exceptions to the exception, which create a maze of challenges for any young person. Very few teens would be able to benefit, as a result.
- FAIR believes it is unreasonable to expect (in **11-212 D(3)(i)**) that a minor should "... reasonably should have known" somebody would not want to see an image, or that an image was not assaultive or without consent. This can be a difficult standard even for adults, and to expect a teen or pre-teen to know such things is simply not realistic.
- In **11-212 D(9)(iv)** the maximum of two for distribution seems arbitrary and overly restrictive. Example: a girl could share an image with several friends expecting the item to remain within that circle, with no ill intent and no complaints by friends, but due to the number limit she would no longer get the exception.

In conclusion, FAIR respectfully requests that the committee vote NO on House Bill 501.

Sincerely,

Brenda V. Jones, Executive Director  
Families Advocating Intelligent Registries