

Bill Number: SB 515
Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County
Support

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT SHELLENBERGER,
STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY,
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 515
REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS – ENTRY ONTO SCHOOL PROPERTY

I write in support of Senate Bill 515 that would prohibit certain registered sex offenders from attending and being on school property.

In December of 2019, Santino Sudano was charged with Second Degree Rape of a Parkville High School student. At the time, Sudano was a 21 year old student at the school and the victim was 15 years old. Sudano had enrolled at Parkville High School in July 2019. This despite the fact that he had been previously convicted of a Fourth Degree Sex Offense after a 2017 incident when he was 19 and he had sex with another student who was only 13 years old. He pled guilty in that case in 2018 which caused him to be on the sex offender registry.

The permission to attend Parkville High School even after registering as a sex offender was permitted by the principal of that school.

Senate Bill 515 would prevent any student who is registered as a sex offender from attending a traditional school. The law does require that the school system develop a plan for alternative teaching so the student is not left without an education. The law does protect those students who are underage from being preyed upon by older students like Sudano.

I urge a favorable report.