

**Bill Number: SB 268**  
**Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County**  
**Support**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT D. SHELLENBERGER,**  
**STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY,**  
**IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 268**  
**CRIME OF VIOLENCE – DEFINITION**

I write in support of Senate Bill 268 that expands slightly the definition of a crime of violence found in Criminal Law §14-101. Criminal Law §3-602 is Maryland's child abuse statute. In Maryland, a child for child abuse purposes are those under the age of 18. Under existing law, if one commits sexual child abuse on someone under 13 years of age it is a crime of violence.

Senate Bill 268 would raise that age to 16 years. This makes logical sense when one is a family member or household member you are in a position of authority. When that type of person is using their authority and position to sexually abuse those 16 years of age and under it should be a crime of violence. Why does this matter? Because there are many additional consequences to those convicted of crimes that are labeled crimes of violence including the amount of time you must serve in jail.

Senate Bill 268 is a logical common sense change and I urge a favorable report.