

DANIEL L. COX
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Frederick and Carroll Counties

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Family Law

Public Safety

Task Force to Study Crime
Classification and Penalties



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in support of HB 847, Registered Sex Offenders – Residency Restrictions

Dear Chair Clippinger and Vice Chair Atterbeary and members of the committee:

Today, I come before you with a simple common sense bill to restrict individuals who are on the Maryland sex offender registry from residing within 1,000 feet of a school, child care facility, park, playground, designated school bus stop, or places where children regularly congregate.

Twenty-one states have passed similar legislation. This bill addresses both protecting children as well as reducing the potential of repeat offenses by sexual offenders by limiting their access to children.

This concern has been raised by Thurmont, Maryland constituents who are represented here today by Andrew Pollara and Amanda Long. It came to their attention that a registered sex offender was living on the edge of a public playground and across from a school bus stop. The security cameras of this individual appeared to be angled in such a manner as to pick up children on the playground and at the bus stop. When the local police and Sheriff's department investigated, they determined that because there was no law preventing a registered sex offender from living next to a children's playground or bus stop, they could not charge him.

Although this law is prospective only, it will prevent future potential endangerment of children by simply requiring registered sex offenders to live away from where children play every day.

It is my hope that we can join states like Alabama, California, Illinois, Michigan and Washington State and pass this common sense piece of legislation in order to protect our children and I ask the committee for a favorable report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Cox".

Delegate Dan Cox, District 4
Frederick and Carroll Counties