

Bill Number: HB 277

**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 HOUSE BILL 277
FIRST DEGREE CHILD ABUSE – CONTINUING COURSE OF CONDUCT**

I write in support of House Bill 277, which would make a continuing course of conduct for First Degree Child Abuse. The current child abuse statute can be separated into two separate areas: child abuse and severe injury child abuse. Under House Bill 277, when an adult engages in three or more acts of child abuse that continuing course of conduct will elevate the crime from child abuse to severe child abuse. This of course will allow for a greater sentence.

If an adult commits child abuse three or more times should they not be held to account for those repeated actions to a higher degree than if they only did a wrong once?

I urge a favorable report on House Bill 277.