

**Testimony in OPPOSITION of House Bill 1214
Maryland Child Protection Act of 2022**

**House Health & Government Operations
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2:00 PM**

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Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association stands in opposition to House Bill 1214, a bill that amongst other requirements, looks to expand mandatory reporter obligations to include sexual crimes.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students for the careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Currently, as mandatory reporters, educators are statutorily required to report suspected abuse or neglect.¹ Penalties already exist for mandatory reporters failing to report suspected abuse or neglect. House Bill 1214 looks to add suspected sexual crimes to reporting requirements. Sexual crimes are serious offenses that require legal and criminal expertise. Educators are not experts in the law and there is no basis for expanding their already expansive obligations.

MSEA urges an unfavorable vote on HB 1214.

¹ Maryland Code, Md. Code, Crim. Law § 3-602.2