

SB710: Criminal Procedure – Expungement of Records – Modifications

Families Advocating Intelligent Registries (FAIR) seeks rational, constitutional sexual offense laws and policies for persons accused and convicted of sexual offenses. We find much to applaud in SB710, and ask that only one amendment be made for full support. Remove the blanket expungement exclusion of everyone required to register.

Only a very small portion of persons with a single sexual offense qualify for expungement. They are by definition already vetted by the court as being extremely low-risk, and would benefit from the same opportunity.

This bill is making a broad-brush exclusion. Many people do not realize that absolutely EVERY offense of a sexual nature puts people on Maryland's registry, including non-violent offenses. Registries are "sold" as a resource people can check to keep their kids safe, but in reality the vast majority of people on it will never commit another offense, even those who committed a crime against a child.

Please amend SB710 to remove that exception against registrants. There are many people we know with very low-level sexual offenses who already hope to apply for expungement under the existing law. They will be grateful not to lose that opportunity.

Sincerely,



Brenda V. Jones, Executive Director
Families Advocating Intelligent Registries
Cell: 301-318-8964