

SB 1145: Public and Nonpublic Schools - Child Sex Offenders -
Prohibition on In-Person Attendance: Please SUPPORT this bill!!

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee Chair Smith, Vice chair Waldstreicher, and all other esteemed Committee Members:

Please SUPPORT this very common sense bill!!

The bill reads: “...**Synopsis: Prohibiting a child from in-person attendance at a public school or a nonpublic school that receives State funds if the child has been convicted or adjudicated delinquent of rape or other sexual offenses; and requiring each local school system to provide alternative educational options for children prohibited from in-person attendance under the Act.**

The body of the bill reads as follows: “...IF A CHILD HAS BEEN CONVICTED OR ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT OF RAPE OR A SEXUAL OFFENSE THAT, IF COMMITTED BY AN ADULT, WOULD CONSTITUTE A FELONY, THE CHILD IS PROHIBITED FROM IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL THAT RECEIVES STATE FUNDS...”

I think the direct quotes from this bill say it all. We have a responsibility to keep the school children in this state safe. Safety should be our primary goal for all children!! Unsafe children, or children that feel unsafe, will not be able to learn!!

Even though some people may argue that our primary responsibility to our school children is to teach them, I would respectfully disagree. We must keep our school children SAFE first. Once our school children are safe, they will be able to learn. They will not have that anxiety from being uncertain about their safety clouding their minds, and their minds will be free to learn.

Unfortunately, in today's world, it is a reality that some school aged young adults will be convicted of rape or sexual assaults. We cannot allow these young adults convicted of such heinous crimes to be around our other school children, due to the threat to the safety of our school children that this would cause.

We can also hope that with the wording in this bill that those young adults convicted of such offenses would be entitled to “alternative educational options”, that those convicted young adults could use these options to turn their lives around.

I think we owe it to every child to PASS this bill that is a win-win for all children!!

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation in SUPPORTING this bill!!

Trudy Tibbals

A Very Concerned Mother and Maryland resident