

JOHNNY RAY SALLING
Legislative District 6
Baltimore County

Budget and Taxation Committee
Public Safety, Transportation,
and Environment Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Ways and Means Committee
Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbary
Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins
House Office Building
Room 131
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I express my gratitude to Committee for permitting me to address Senate Bill 1145, titled Public and Nonpublic Schools - Child Sex Offenders - Prohibition on In-Person Attendance. This bill holds significant implications for the safety and well-being of our children within Maryland's educational institutions.

Senate Bill 1145 seeks to address a critical gap in our current system by prohibiting any juvenile convicted of a sex offense that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult from attending public school. Instead, the bill mandates that such individuals seek alternative means of public education. This measure is essential for ensuring the safety and security of our school environments.

The urgency of this legislation was underscored during a recent meeting I had with two concerned mothers whose toddler daughters were sexually assaulted by a student within the Baltimore County Public School system. Shockingly, despite the severity of the situation, the school administration refused to take action to remove the offender until a news story was published on television.

Given the gravity of the issue, and the imperative to protect our children, urge you to prioritize the expedited review and passage of Senate Bill 1145, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our children. Delaying action on this bill could pose risks to the safety of our children, and it is crucial that we act swiftly and decisively. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I am hopeful for your support in ensuring a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Johnny Ray Salling".

Senator Johnny Ray Salling