

Bill Number: SB 333
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 SENATE BILL 333
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – VICTIMS AND WITNESSES – OUT OF COURT
STATEMENT OF CHILD TO FORENSIC INTERVIEWER

I write in support of Senate Bill 333 Out of Court Statement of Child to Forensic Interviewer.

Criminal Procedure 11-304 has been around for a couple of decades. It has been upheld by Maryland's Appellate Courts on multiple occasions over the years. Senate Bill 333 keeps its previous format of allowing certain professionals to testify to what a child victim of certain child abuse crimes and others told them about the crime. The type of witnesses previously permitted to testify are doctors, nurses, social workers and therapists. A forensic interviewer is an extension of the already accepted occupations. (example)

Please remember under this hearsay exception the child victim must testify. The statement must also have a particularized guarantee of trustworthiness.

Senate Bill 333 is a needed and logical extension of an accepted statute and I urge a favorable report.