



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY

February 26, 2025

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of HB0952 – Juvenile Sex Offender Registry - Qualifying Offenses and Access

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB0952, which strengthens the Juvenile Sex Offender Registry by expanding qualifying offenses, improving access for school administrators, and ensuring consistent monitoring of juvenile offenders. This legislation will enhance public safety in our school systems and equip our leaders in these institutions with the tools to address potential risks to their students.

This legislation adds several new offenses to the list of qualifying crimes requiring registration to the Juvenile Sex Offender Registry, including child abuse involving sexual acts, stalking of minors, and non-consensual child pornography production or distribution. By broadening the scope of registerable offenses, and allowing school administrators access to the registry, school systems will be able to deal with a greater amount of threats with more efficiency.

Granting local superintendents and their designee's access to the Juvenile Sex Offender Registry is a critical component of this bill and will empower our school systems to make informed decisions on potential safety issues amongst their students. This measure enables school officials to take appropriate precautions to protect students while making informed decisions about student safety in educational environments.

School administrators are often in the best position to identify risks and intervene early, ensuring a secure learning atmosphere for all children. I would also like to encourage the committee to see how HB0951, a bill which expands due process protections for students, if passed alongside HB0952, will ensure that school administrators do not breach the due process rights of students.



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House Bill 952 represents a balanced and necessary approach to enhancing community safety by ensuring that juveniles who commit serious offenses are properly monitored. By expanding access to critical information and adding more serious offenses to the registry, this legislation strengthens protections for children and families across Maryland.

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB0952. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ivan J. Bates

Ivan J. Bates
State's Attorney for Baltimore City

Submitted By: Hassan Giordano
Chief, External Affairs Division