



February 11, 2026

**The Chair William C. Smith, Jr
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401**

Senate Bill (SB) 407 - Criminal Law - Sexual Offense by a Person of Authority

POSITION: Support

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee members:

On behalf of the Maryland Children's Alliance (MCA), thank you for the opportunity to support SB 407 - Criminal Law - Sexual Offense by a Person of Authority, legislation which will better protect Maryland's children. MCA is a private nonprofit organization that functions as a State Chapter within the National Children's Alliance and serves as a convener of the 24 children's advocacy centers (CACs) across Maryland. We are in support of SB407, which prohibits sexual contact with minor children by a person of authority.

In 2025, Maryland's 24 CACs served 5,446 children. The mission of our CACs is to reduce the trauma of abuse for this vulnerable population. SB407 will protect children from victimization by adults in locations where they should be protected. CACs are child-focused facilities that help abused children heal by coordinating the investigation and treatment of child abuse through the multi-disciplinary team response. CACs also provide children and families with advocacy and case coordination. The multi-disciplinary teams in CACs are made up of forensic interviewers, family advocates, medical providers, law enforcement, child protective services, trauma therapists, and prosecutors. Too often, the children we serve have been victimized by people they and their parents trusted. SB 407 would prohibit persons of authority - including coaches, principals, tutors and day care providers - from abusing the children placed in their care.

Thank you again for your support of MCA and Maryland's CACs, and for the opportunity to provide testimony on this vitally important issue. Maryland Children's Alliance requests a favorable report on SB407 to support Maryland's child victims of abuse, assault, neglect, exploitation and trafficking.

Respectfully,

Wendy Myers, MS
Executive Director

Maryland Children's Alliance
5400 Preakness Way
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

www.marylandchildrensalliance.org

