

SB 230/HB138: Criminal Law - Third-Degree Sexual Offense - Burglary:
Please VOTE TO SUPPORT this bill.

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully write in **strong support of SB 230/HB 138 – Criminal Law: Third-Degree Sexual Offense – Burglary.**

This bill closes a dangerous gap in current law by ensuring that individuals who commit sexual offenses in conjunction with burglary are held fully accountable. The intersection of sexual assault and unlawful entry is particularly serious because it combines **the trauma of invasion with the violation of personal safety and security**. SB 230 recognizes the severity of this behavior and strengthens protections for victims.

By explicitly classifying sexual acts committed during a burglary as third-degree sexual offenses, the bill provides **clearer legal authority for prosecution**, enhances **deterrence**, and underscores Maryland's commitment to protecting residents from predatory behavior. It also provides law enforcement and prosecutors with the necessary clarity to pursue justice efficiently and consistently.

This legislation is a critical step toward **enhancing public safety, protecting vulnerable individuals, and ensuring that perpetrators of these compounded crimes face consequences commensurate with the harm they inflict.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **VOTE IN SUPPORT OF SB0230/HB0138.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Trudy Tibbals