

HB 1484: Child Sex Offenders - Plea Agreements and Places for Children: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT HB 1484**.

Children are among the most vulnerable members of our society, and those who commit sexual offenses against them inflict lifelong trauma. **Allowing offenders to negotiate away sex offender registration through plea deals—particularly in the most serious cases involving very young victims—undermines accountability, public safety, and victim justice.** Registration is a critical tool for law enforcement and communities to monitor high-risk individuals and prevent reoffending. Similarly, strict residency and presence restrictions protect children in everyday settings from known predators.

This bill sends a clear message: those who prey on young children will face full consequences and be kept away from places where children gather. It prioritizes child protection over lenient plea bargaining and ensures that communities can feel safer knowing dangerous offenders are subject to meaningful safeguards.

For these reasons, I respectfully **ask you to vote in favor of HB 1484** and help strengthen protections for Maryland's children against child sex offenders.

Thank you for your attention to this vital child safety and public safety legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals