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Unfavorable Response to HB138 Criminal Law – Third-Degree Sexual Offense - Burglary

Families Advocating Intelligent Registries (FAIR) seeks rational, constitutional sexual offense laws and policies for persons accused and convicted of sexual offenses.

Consistent with our mission and charter, FAIR supports rational laws and policies. As such, we have no disagreement with this Bill insofar as it creates a new third-degree criminal offense for sexual contact without consent in connection with a burglary.

We Object to Laws that Propagate the Myth that Registries are Effective

We object to this bill regarding the expansion of the Maryland Registry. When the Registry was created, it was a resource available only to Law Enforcement to keep them current with information about the whereabouts of individuals who committed serious hands-on sexual offenses. That was the intent and purpose. Since that time it has grown to include and publicly display absolutely all categories of offenses. However, over 30 years of research and experience show that the public registry is not effective and does not enhance public safety.

The “fix” for sexual offending is treatment (which thankfully is currently required under existing law), not public shaming on a public Registry, which has been proven to be ineffective and actually damaging to registrants and their families.

For these reasons, FAIR asks that the committee return an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Brenda V. Jones, Executive Director
Families Advocating Intelligent Registries