



Continuing the Missions of the Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation, Inc.

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## INFORMATIONAL LETTER ON HB 722

February 17, 2026

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center (MCVRC) respectfully submits these informational comments regarding House Bill 722.

HB 722 reflects a significant policy decision to ensure that organizations cannot avoid civil liability for child sexual abuse solely because they are charitable entities. By abrogating charitable immunity and applying that change retroactively, the bill clearly prioritizes institutional accountability and access to justice for survivors.

MCVRC recognizes and appreciates this objective. However, meaningful accountability requires that the factual record of misconduct remain accessible.

That framework is placed at risk if Maryland simultaneously adopts or maintains broad expungement policies, such as those contemplated in SB 525, that remove underlying criminal cases or related records from public or legal review. HB 722 depends on the ability to examine prior conduct, institutional knowledge, and patterns of harm. Expansive expungement may obscure those patterns, limit evidence available to civil litigants and regulators, and weaken the retroactive accountability this bill seeks to create.

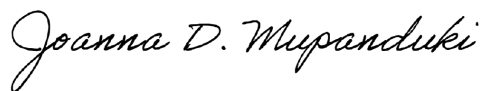
In addition, while HB 722 removes charitable immunity for private organizations, it preserves governmental liability limitations, including protections under the Maryland Tort Claims Act, the Local Government Tort Claims Act, and existing statutory damages caps. The State of Maryland is therefore not waiving comparable immunity protections for itself or its political subdivisions.

This creates an uneven accountability framework. Private charitable institutions face expanded retroactive exposure, while governmental entities retain significant liability protections. If the goal is institutional accountability for child sexual abuse, the Committee may wish to consider how these differing standards interact.

For these reasons, MCVRC respectfully encourages the Committee to consider the relationship between HB 722, expungement policy, and the broader structure of institutional liability to ensure that Maryland's laws operate consistently and effectively.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important issue and for your continued commitment to protecting children and supporting survivors.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanna D. Mupanduki". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joanna D. Mupanduki, Esq.  
Deputy Director  
Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center, Inc.