



February 17, 2026

HB 722

Position: UNFAVORABLE

SENT VIA MYMGA

Maryland General Assembly
House Judiciary Committee
Attn: Del. J. Sandy Dartlett, Chair
Attn: Del. Debra Davis, Vice Chair

Re: *HB 722 Child Sex Abuse Claims – Doctrine of Charitable Immunity – Abrogation*

Dear Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair & Members of the Committee:

I am David Moyer, Senior Pastor of Perry Hall Baptist Church. We are a Maryland religious corporation and are located at 3919 Schroeder Ave, Perry Hall, MD, in Baltimore County. I am writing concerning House Bill 722 Child Sex Abuse Claims – Doctrine of Charitable Immunity – Abrogation. The position of Perry Hall Baptist Church, and the members of its congregation, for HB 722 is unfavorable (UNF).

Perry Hall Baptist Church was incorporated in February of 1960. It operates as an independent Baptist Church, both a fellowship of believers and a place of worship. The nature of its work is ministering to people's spiritual and physical needs, motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our community impact spans many ministries that are heavily focused on the care and support of young people. Our service to the next generation spans our Sunday Schools, Wednesday night Kids Club ministry – "Campfire", and our Youth Ministry – "Bonfire" Summer ministries include our weeklong off site Mountain Top Bible Camp and our on-site VBS style Adventure Camp. We are also the parent organization and sponsoring church for Perry Hall Christian School. Our programs are led and operated by a host of both paid and volunteer men and women as we impact the lives of well over 700 children annually. Space does not allow me to document the full scope of our work in the community. Our Men's Ministry, Women's Programs, Counseling Ministry, Benevolent Fund, and Thanksgiving Drives all point to a church that aims to impact the people of Perry Hall and beyond. We are financially supported by the generosity of our people: the members and close supporters of Perry Hall Baptist Church.

We have for years relied upon Maryland's charitable immunity protection in maintaining our work and ordering our finances. Our congregation counts on having their contributions go towards the mission of the church and its ministries. We are able to provide the services that we do to our congregation and our community because of it.

HB 722 is deeply unfair and harmful to charities. Perry Hall Baptist Church has relied upon the doctrine of charitable immunity since it was formed in 1960. This reliance has dictated whether we have obtained insurance, coverage limits, and coverage exclusions. Maryland has now removed any statute of limitations for child sex offense cases. The abrogation of charitable immunity would compound the effects of the removal of the statute of limitations for child sex abuse cases and requires charities to defend cases where the alleged abusers and supervisors are often long deceased, witnesses are missing, and records are lost due to passage of time.

The impact of this bill is not only on our ongoing ministries, but on our very existence. One substantial liability claim could well end our ministry altogether, resulting in a loss to our community of the services that we freely provide.

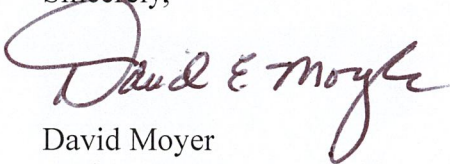
We also believe that this bill violates our constitutional rights as citizens of Maryland and of the United States. We and other charities have reasonably relied upon the assurance of immunity beyond the limited of their insurance in planning their affairs and arranging insurance. The retroactive removal of immunity covering cases dating back 80 years or more is an act of betrayal by the State that violates the fundamental principles of due process.

Our church leadership, our congregation, and we believe our community strongly opposes HB 722. We are writing to voice our opposition and ask that the bill be defeated.

Thank you for your attention and we are available for questions and discussion as needed.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David E. Moyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "M".

David Moyer
Senior Pastor, Perry Hall Baptist Church