

**HB 0012: Juvenile Sex Offender Registry - Qualifying Offenses and Access: Please vote IN SUPPORT OF this bill.**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I write in **strong support of HB 0012 – Juvenile Sex Offender Registry – Qualifying Offenses and Access**, with a focus on what matters most: **the safety, dignity, and long-term well-being of victims.**

Sexual offenses — especially those involving children — leave lifelong scars. Survivors carry the trauma long after the incident itself, and families live with fear, anger, and grief that cannot simply be “moved past.” For victims, accountability is not abstract. It is personal. It is about being believed, being protected, and knowing that the system recognizes the seriousness of what was done to them.

**HB 0012** acknowledges that reality. By ensuring that **serious juvenile sexual offenses are clearly identified and appropriately addressed**, this bill **strengthens** the juvenile sex offender registry as a **meaningful tool for protecting victims and preventing future harm**. It ensures that access to registry information is intentional and responsible — serving safety, not secrecy.

At the same time, **HB 0012** avoids policies that are so broad they become ineffective. A registry that is unfocused or misapplied can dilute attention away from the most dangerous behaviors and, in doing so, fail victims. This bill **ensures that the most serious offenses receive the scrutiny they deserve**, reinforcing that sexual harm is not minimized or excused simply because the offender is young.

Importantly, **HB 0012** does not pit victim safety against fairness — it recognizes that both matter. **True justice** means protecting victims while also applying the law carefully and thoughtfully, in ways that strengthen trust in the system and reduce the risk of future harm.

Victims deserve a system that takes their pain seriously, prioritizes prevention, and acts with clarity and purpose. **HB 0012 moves Maryland closer to that goal.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **issue a favorable report on HB 0012.**

Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to protecting Maryland’s children and families.

Sincerely,  
Trudy Tibbals