



March 10, 2026

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Del. J. Sandy Bartlett
100 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: *HB 722 – Charitable Immunity*

Dear Del. Bartlett:

I am writing to express my strong support for a favorable report on HB 722.

In 2023, the Maryland General Assembly made a historic commitment to survivors of childhood sexual abuse with the passage of the Child Victims Act (CVA). However, this promise loses its power when survivors are denied their day in court due to a legal doctrine dating back to the 1800s. Charitable immunity, originally designed to protect donor assets, was never intended to shield organizations that enabled the sexual abuse of children. Yet, some charitable institutions are now using this doctrine to evade accountability, undermining the very rights that the CVA sought to restore.

Survivors who have waited decades for justice are being turned away—not because their cases lack merit, but due to an outdated technicality rooted in 19th-century common law. HB 722 provides a measured and fair solution: it introduces a specific exception to charitable immunity for verified survivors of childhood sexual abuse. This bill does not abolish the doctrine entirely; rather, it ensures no institution can misuse charitable status to avoid accountability for harming the children they were entrusted to protect. Donors surely never intended their contributions to be used to conceal child abuse.

The legislature spoke clearly in 2023. Now, we ask you to ensure that this commitment remains meaningful and that survivors are not denied justice due to antiquated legal loopholes. Please advance HB 722 out of committee and honor the promise made to Maryland's children.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert K. Jenner', written over a printed name.

Robert K. Jenner