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## **Unfavorable Response to HB123 School Systems – Reportable Offenses – Alterations**

Families Advocating Intelligent Registries (FAIR) seeks rational, constitutional sexual offense laws and policies. We have concerns regarding HB123.

The current list of reportable offenses in GED 7-303 primarily includes felonies, many involving violence or participation in criminal organizations. In contrast, the expanded list is almost entirely composed of offenses that, if committed by an adult, would be classified as misdemeanors and are nonviolent (e.g., Crim Law 3-902; Crim Law 3-809). Then at the end, the bill adds absolutely everything else that would be considered a felony if committed by an adult. FAIR finds this proposed expansion of reportable offenses to be excessively broad

This broad expansion creates a significant risk of long-term reputational harm, isolation and undue stigmatization of juveniles. We must remember that an arrest does not signify guilt – only a strong suspicion which must then be further investigated. FAIR understands that the intent is to make superintendents aware of the student's active case, in order to take any precautions they deem necessary. Often these precautions may involve actions that make the juvenile's situation known much more widely: a requirement for home study, for instance, or "warnings" to various teachers and staff which can then spread further.

In the event that the suspicions leading to an arrest turn out to be unfounded, grave reputational harm to the juvenile will have already been done – and it really cannot be undone.

For these reasons, FAIR urges the committee to return an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Brenda V. Jones, Executive Director  
Families Advocating Intelligent Registries