

HB0531 - Criminal Procedure - Sexual Offenders - Lifetime Supervision - SUPPORT

Jennifer Burrows

17935 Wide Bay Way

Dameron, MD 20628

Delegate Clippinger,

I am writing in support of HB0531, as this bill would expand the probation term for anyone convicted of Sexual Abuse of a Minor to lifetime supervision. Currently, offenders convicted of this crime become Tier III Registered Sex Offenders for life, however they are only on probation for 5 years. The Sex Offender Registry itself is primarily a directory of information, with limited actual restrictions. Additional restrictions such as no unmonitored contact with minors, mandatory therapy, or drug testing, are only available through probation. Having only a 5 year probationary term for these types of offenders leaves many years in which an offender is still required to be on the Sex Offender Registry, but is not also under the supervision and monitoring of a Probation Officer.

HB0531 is necessary in order to better protect the community, especially children, from already convicted offenders and reduce the number of repeat offenses.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Burrows