

# Favorable with Amendment(s) HB0277

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Dear Committee,

Repeated **physical** child abuse has composite & determinative consequences. Recent COVID quarantine efforts adversely affected lower income Marylanders & very likely increased cases of child abuse. As children of single-parent households were on lockdown, children did not readily have access to structural safety nets (their friends, their family, their playmates, their teachers, etc.).

Fifty-seven percent of reported child abuse is perpetuated by women (chiefly single mothers).

The importance of reported cases is crucial because often reports are initiated by non-family members. During COVID, the frequency with which children were even seen by non-family members may have dropped to zero. Worse still, there are essentially zero reports from children – on their own accord – who are younger than 4 years of age.

**To date, we Marylanders are experiencing the most devastating societal, economic & spiritual attack EVER on the state of Maryland.**

<https://www.aier.org/article/despairing-america-the-astonishing-psychological-cost-of-lockdown/>

<https://www.aier.org/article/death-by-lockdown/>

Fathom for a moment that those children being abused were locked down & abused by single-mothers at rates of perhaps 6-in-10 to a 3-in-4 .

psychological episodes.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. Child Maltreatment 2012 [online]. Washington, DC:

Government Printing Office; 2012, available from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2012.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/childmaltreatment-facts-at-a-glance.pdf>

<https://frederickcountyconservativeclub.com/2020/09/gang-of-women-let-pedophiles-rape-children-as-young-as-3-for-cash/>

Just a few days ago, the horrible case of a former teacher murdering a 3-year-old came to light.

In this devastating case, the Robinsons inflicted a "series of blunt force injuries" to the child.

Meaning there was course over multiple incidents. Ultimately the toddler died of murder.

<https://www.wyff4.com/article/former-upstate-teacher-charged-in-childs-death-has-teaching-certificate-suspended/35308747#>



My background work included for DJS with neglected children & parental representation. I witnessed first-hand neglect in the office & requested re-assignment. A mom would come to the office to do drugs, leaving the child unattended. That said, such neglect does not rise to the level of some of the penalties involved in §3-601. There is a vast difference between blunt force abuse, resulting in the death of a 3-year-old versus a single-mom's negligent parenting-on-dope.

Child abuse involving any **PROVEN** physical harm should bring about swift & fast justice. Negligent parenting – in an era when 70%+ of Maryland fathers are pushed outside the home by our government child support/welfare agencies – doesn't merit multiple years in jail. Nor does unproven (and often UN-prove-able) charges of mental neglect.  
<https://www.mdtriallawyer.com/child-abuse.html>

### **AMEND THE BILL**

Physical harm should yield such punitive punishment. Unproven, ambiguous and/or hearsay should not. The bill must be modified to reflect this. Special care must be taken if such allegations are being made during the time of active/open child custody/child support cases in the courts.

humbly  
~vince