

MATT MORGAN
Legislative District 29A
St. Mary's County

DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair, St. Mary's County Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 310
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3170 · 301-858-3170
800-492-7122 Ext. 3170
Matt.Morgan@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Delegate Luke Clippinger
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building
Room 101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony- HB 531– Criminal Procedure - Sexual Offenders - Lifetime Supervision.
SUPPORT**

Good afternoon, Chairman Clippinger, and members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB531 – Criminal Procedure - Sexual Offenders - Lifetime Supervision.

HB531 would require more convicted sexual offenders to be placed under lifetime supervision. The bill adds all circumstances of second-degree sexual offense as that crime existed before October 1, 2017, an attempt to commit a second-degree sexual offense, and sexual abuse of a minor, regardless of the minor's age, as crimes that require lifetime supervision.

WHY IT'S NEEDED

Under current Maryland law, only some offenders who sexually abuse minors are placed under lifetime supervision. This is a loophole in the law.

This requirement should extend to all who commit this heinous crime on a minor, regardless of that minor's age. Currently, lifetime supervision is required for offenders whose victims are aged 12 and under, yet 2 out of 3 of crimes are committed on children aged 12-17, and they are not protected by their abuser. The max these offenders can receive under current law is 5 year probations.

By requiring lifetime supervision for these offenders, HB531 protects Maryland's children from offenders who have already been convicted of these crimes and reduce the number of repeat offenses.

This bill is prospective and does not apply to any conviction before the bill's effective date. I respectfully request a favorable report on HB531. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Morgan".

Matt Morgan