



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 28, 2021

**Testimony in Support of**

**HB48 Criminal Procedure – Registered Sex Offenders – Entry Onto School Property**

My dear colleagues and esteemed members of the House Judiciary Committee, I am here today to present HB48, *Criminal Procedure – Registered Sex Offenders – Entry Onto School Property*.

Last year, Delegates Carl Jackson, Joe Boteler, and I sponsored emergency legislation to address an issue in our schools. For those who don't remember the details, back in 2017 a student was arrested and charged with second-degree rape of a 13-year-old girl. In 2018, he was back at Parkville High School, taking classes around minors while on the sex offender registry. Shortly after, he was again arrested and charged with sexually assaulting a minor. He is currently in a correctional facility awaiting trial.

How did this happen? In Maryland, all that is needed for someone on the sex offender registry list to attend school is written permission, which the offender received. This whole situation, understandably, caused a major outcry in our district, so the District 8 legislators submitted that emergency legislation. While last year's version of the bill made it out of the Senate, this did not make it out of the House Judiciary Committee due to the fact that, per the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, students have until they are 21 to receive publicly funded education. After speaking with Delegate Luedtke and the District 8 members over the summer, we believe we have found a solution.

HB48 would make it so that anyone who is on the sex offender registry list but still allowed by federal law to receive publicly funded education has to do so via the state's Home and Hospital program or via a Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents. It would also bar those on the sex offender registry list from entering onto school grounds, and it includes repercussions for those who knowingly allow a sex offender onto school property. This creates firm state guidelines for such instances, as opposed to leaving it up to the discretion of others.

I urge you to look upon this bill favorably and vote to pass.