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**To:** Members of The House Judiciary Committee

**From:** Doyle Niemann, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice Section

**Date:** February 11, 2022

**Subject:** **HB606 – Registered Sex Offenders – Residency Restrictions**

**Position:** **Support**

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The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law & Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **Opposes HB606 – Registered Sex Offenders – Residency Restrictions.**

This bill would prohibit an individual who has been required to register as a sex offender as a result of actions involving someone under the age of 18 from residing in a long list of specified locations.

While we appreciate the intent of the bill to protect children, it simply goes too far. A review of the list of locations effectively precludes most places where an individual who has been placed on the registry, regardless of the circumstances of his or her case, might be able to find a place to live. In its most extreme version, it precludes a location within 1000 feet of a place where children regularly congregate, which could include virtually any residence where children live.

Research and data on individuals who have been convicted of a crime that would place them on the registry also does not demonstrate that such residency restrictions reduce the risk of re-offense.

For the reasons stated, we **Oppose HB606 – Registered Sex Offenders – Residency Restrictions.**

If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section's Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at 240-606-1298 or at [doyleniemann@verizon.net](mailto:doyleniemann@verizon.net).