



*Join us in supporting
bills to protect our
children!*

Child abuse can be prevented. Early intervention in childhood trauma can help children thrive mentally, physically and emotionally. BCAC asks your support on:

SB 739/HB 1007: Child Advocacy Centers – Expansion

- This bill will help ensure that every child in Maryland has access to an accredited child advocacy center (CAC).
- Following a report of child abuse, a child should be seen promptly at an accredited CAC, where a team of forensic interviewers, social services, law enforcement, medical and mental health and other professionals provide services
- CACs reduce trauma of multiple interviews and provide follow up care for children and their caregivers.



SB 568/HB 787: Child Abuse and Neglect – Failure to Report

- Professionals who work with children have a legal duty to report suspected child abuse.
- Predators often rely on the complicity of other adults to look the other way.
- This bill will help hold accountable those professionals who know of abuse but choose not to report it.

SB 541/HB 486: Personnel Matters - Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Misconduct Prevention (S.E.S.A.M.E. – Stop Educator Sexual Abuse Misconduct & Exploitation)

- This bill does what criminal background checks alone do not: help alert a school about a potential employee's past sexual misconduct or sexual abuse of students.
- This helps schools keep passing bad actors from one place to another and protects kids.

HB 687: Child Sexual Abuse – Statute of Limitations

- This bill extends Maryland's statute of limitations so child victims of sexual abuse can take civil action when ready to confront and remedy the trauma endured in childhood.
- Only one-third of child abuse victims report what happened to them while they are still minors. The average age of disclosure is 51 for many sex abuse victims.

Baltimore Child Abuse Center (BCAC) is a chartered, accredited member of the National Children's Alliance and the Maryland Children's Alliance. As a Child Advocacy Center, BCAC provides victims of child sexual abuse with forensic interviews, medical treatment, family advocacy, and referrals for mental health services in a supportive and child-friendly setting with a goal of preventing future abuse. BCAC has served over 35,000 young people and their families since inception.

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