



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Del. Marshall to Require Abuse Reporting by Sports Coaches

November 22, 2011-Manassas, VA - Del. Bob Marshall has introduced bills adding coaches or athletic directors of private sports teams (HB 3) and institutions of higher learning (HB 4) to the list of those who are required to report child sexual abuse, and other similar abuse, to local authorities.

"The indifference and inaction of coaches at the University of Pennsylvania in the face of observed sexual abuse of young boys over a period of year is disgusting beyond description. Most people were shocked to learn that the Pennsylvania law was unclear on the duty imposed on coaches in such situations. Pennsylvania is toughening its state laws, and Virginia needs to do the same." Marshall said.

"These bills are needed because victims of sexual abuse, especially young boys, tend to keep such abuse to themselves," Marshall explained, pointing to a US Department of Justice report on child sexual exploitation which concluded:

"Adolescent boy victims are highly likely to deny certain types of sexual activity.... They are embarrassed and ashamed of their behavior and rightfully believe that society will not understand their victimization .... No matter what the investigator does, most adolescent boys will deny they were victims." ["Understanding and Investigating Child Sexual Exploitation," (U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, 1997), p. 12, cited by FRC, <http://www.frc.org/get.cfm?i=is02e3#edn10>]

"If coaches with whom we entrust our children refuse to do the right thing on their own by attempting to stop, or at least report, abuse when they see it, then Virginia needs to impose that duty on them. Silence and inaction in the face of such evil is morally unacceptable and ought to be legally unacceptable." Marshall stated.