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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 18, 2020

**HB 635 Criminal Law – Crimes Involving Computers – Malware and Ransomware**

Honorable Chair Clippinger and Vice-Chair Atterbeary and members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you a matter which effects virtually everyone who lives in the modern world –either directly or indirectly. I am referring to the issue of persons using malware to maliciously affect computer systems for monetary gain, such as in the case of ransomware, or mischievously for a challenge or just plain for fun.

While there is a whole industry which is devoted to protect our computer systems, systems that run our businesses, health care, finances and our homes, we do not have sufficient legal processes to extract punishments.

Crimes involving computers cost. We are well aware of the recent case involving the ransomware attack on the Baltimore City government and the associated \$18. Million cost.

Nationally, according to the FBI's internet crime report of 2018, there were 351,937 reported scams such as Business Email Compromise, Extortion, Tech Support Fraud, and Payroll Diversion costing the business community over \$2.7 Billion. In 2019, among the most prevalent scams were phishing and extortion and the reported numbers jumped to 467,361 and cost the business community, \$3.5 Billion. These are significant year over year increases in both the raw numbers of *reported* scams and *total* cost.

Clearly, these are serious crimes. And persons who knowingly possess these weapons of mass disruption should be punished.

Thank you for your consideration and I would ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D Cox".

Dan Cox