



The Honorable William Smith & Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Chairperson, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairperson Smith and Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Frederick County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) writes in support of Senate Bill 328 Stalking: Definition. The Frederick County DVCC was formed in 2020 in order to increase collaboration and communication among criminal and civil justice stakeholders, service providers, and community members with the goal to reduce and prevent domestic violence in Frederick County.

The DVCC is in support of Senate Bill 328 because the definition of stalking must be updated to include electronic communication and tracking devices in order to respond to modern stalking behavior. According to Dr. Jacqueline Campbell in her study “Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide,” in 85% of attempted and 76% of completed intimate partner femicides, the victim had been stalked in the year preceding the crime. Additionally, 54% of female domestic violence homicide victims *reported* stalking to police before they were killed by their stalkers. In order to prevent intimate partner homicide, and bring peace and justice to victims of stalking, Maryland must respond to and deter stalking as it is being perpetrated in the modern era—through the use of technology.

Brett Engler, *Esq.*
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