

Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

5900 Abriana Way, Elkridge, Maryland 21075

From: Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

To: Chairman William Smith Jr.

Re: SB 429 Criminal Law – Stalking - Penalties

Date: January 21, 2022

Dear: Chairman Smith,

The Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. is in Favor of SB 429

We represent the Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition (Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness). We were established in 2000, our mission is “To create an atmosphere of understanding in dentistry and other professional communities which will result in the prevention of abuse and neglect through early identification and appropriate intervention for those who have been abused or neglected.” Dentists and Dental Hygienists (Dental Professionals) are mandated by the State of Maryland to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect. Our coalition has established a Continuing Education (CE) course that educates Dental Professionals and others how to recognize, report, or refer. The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners has deemed this course as a mandatory CE requirement for Dentists and Hygienists to renew their licenses. We also address domestic violence, elder abuse, human trafficking and bullying in our CE course.

This bill will alter the penalties for stalking if the victim has a protective order in effect against the defendant at the time the offense or the defendant had previously been convicted of stalking to a felony. We need to protect the victims and show the offenders that there is a consequence for their actions and that they can't intimidate others.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 429 and we ask for a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

Carol Caiazzo, RDH President

Susan Camardese, RDH, MS, Vice President