



# ANTHONY B. COVINGTON

State's Attorney for Charles County

January 25, 2022

Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401 – 1991

Re: Favorable Report for Senate Bill 429

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

As a career special victims' prosecutor I have seen numerous domestic violence cases where the victim finds the courage to leave a relationship is then stalked, put in a perpetual state of fear, and suffers further harm. Unfortunately, this is not unusual. 81% of women who are stalked by an intimate partner were also physically assaulted, while 31% were sexually assaulted.

When we look further at domestic violence homicides, 76% of women who were murdered by an intimate partner were stalked first, while 85% of women who survived a murder attempt had been previously stalked. These crimes aren't happening in a vacuum, many of these victims have sought protective orders and help from law enforcement yet that doesn't end the stalking or the abuse. In fact 54% of female homicide victims had reported being stalked to law enforcement prior to being killed by their stalker.

Maryland is the only state without a sentencing enhancement for repeat offenders and/or perpetrators who already have an order of protection against them. Maryland must do better, we must protect our victims. I urge a favorable return of this bill.

Thank you,

*K.A. Marsh*

Kathryn A. Marsh

Special Victims Liaison, Assistant State's Attorney

Statistics come from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence