

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 Luke Clippinger

Re: HB 148 Criminal Law – Stalking - Definitions

Date: January 27, 2022

Dear: Chairman Clippinger,

The Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. is in Favor of HB 148

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.

It is imperative that we update our definitions to reflect the times in which we live. We have entered the age of electronics and we must include these devices in our laws. We must not allow anyone to track people and pinpoint their whereabouts without that person’s consent. The original intent of this bill is not being altered; we are just bringing it up to date by adding electronics devices.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 148 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