

Good Afternoon,

My name is Andrew Lieux, I am a high school sophomore from Calvert County. I join you today to ask for your support of House Bill 901.

I've heard it all since the beginning of my educational career; thrown into a whirlwind of harassment, falsely placed into a box based on stereotypical markers of homosexuality, which is an issue in itself, because I didn't fit "fit the mold of a man" through something I couldn't control, the tone of my voice and my passions.

I already feel discontent due to the congenital deformities in my right hand, making me more scared of a handshake than public speaking, generating discomfort in situations, specifically with males, as handshakes and dap ups are usual forms of interaction in which I'm unable to confidently take part in. With this and other contributions not outlined in mind, I lost my guy friends, or they just pretended I didn't exist until behind closed doors, left entirely to women, further stimulating this falsely alleged rumor. It never felt like I had a brother, like I had a man in my corner, or any source of male guidance to teach me the ropes of being a "man".

I've gotten anonymous text messages saying "You're gay" with a laughing emoji with a tongue out as if it was some kind of humorous scheme. I've been told in school I'm a pickle tickler, asked if I took part in sexual acts with a man because I was acting out of character, and there was even a tik tok made about me to a Kim Kardashian sound saying "It's never been my thing, not into it, so not approved by me" with "Anytime that Andrew Lieux speaks" on the screen that some of my friends pretended they didn't even see, among many other things.

This bill, if introduced a year ago, could've been the stakeholder that shielded me from the abuses of social media misconduct that was beyond my control, and would've hampered the media's allowance of bullying. I could've been able to smile one more minute instead of being left to wonder if life is even worth living. I, nor should ANY other student be given that burden, and this is why this bill is necessary in every possible aspect. Thank you so much for having me today and I hope you take this all into consideration.