

Bill Number: HB 1032
Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County
Support

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT D. SHELLENBERGER,
STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY,
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1032
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – PROTECTION OF IDENTITY OF MINOR VICTIM

I write in support of House Bill 1032 that will automatically shield the name and identifying information of minor victims.

Now with so much court paperwork available and accessible from remote court kiosks it is more important now than ever to protect a minor victim's identity. It takes only a few clicks of a mouse to copy, paste and publicize the names of victims of crime. Redacting and shielding of names, addresses and personal information is easy to do and does not interfere with the rights of a criminal defendant.

Attached you will find the charging document in the Gilman sexual assault case. No identifying information is contained in the document. The Defendant's rights are not affected as the identity of the victim was revealed to Defense Counsel in the discovery material turned over. However, in this case since the indictment requires a victim's name, shielding is vitally important and must happen automatically.

This is a simple yet necessary protection for the minor victims of crimes.

I urge a favorable report.