

Committees: Judiciary
Testimony on: HB600
Position: Favorable

14 February 2023

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon, and the members of the Judiciary Committee,

The University of Maryland, Student Government Association supports HB600 in the creation of a Task Force on Preventing and Responding to Non Consensual Sexual Imagery. This bill is important because such a task force will support individuals who have been affected by instances of cyberflashing and other non consensual sexual imagery, as well as prevent future instances.

As a member of the Sexual Misconduct Prevention committee in the University of Maryland Student Government Association, I support HB600 because it will help protect members of my constituency and other college students across the state. Specifically among my generation, instances of cyber sexual misconduct are very prevalent, and are also underreported. Receiving non consensual sexual imagery online can be highly violating and traumatic, similarly to instances of sexual misconduct that occur in-person. These crimes are also underreported. According to Pew research, 33% of women under 35 say they have been sexually harassed online, and 11% of men under 35 say the same ([Pew Research Center](#)). Whereas an estimated 80% of cases of rape or other sexual assault are not reported ([SMART](#)), cyberflashing attacks also often go unreported, meaning authorities don't have a good idea of how often they occur ([Flynn](#)). In response to these statistics, it is imperative that this bill is supported in the legislature because it is a necessary first step in approaching this issue.

HB600 would make progress towards combating this issue because the task force would simplify accessibility of education about this issue, and members of the task force would have the opportunity to improve access to resources for victims of online sexual crimes.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB600.

Thank you,



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