

Committees: Judiciary

Testimony on: HB600 - Task Force on Preventing and Responding to Nonconsensual Sexual Imagery

Position: Favorable

13 February 2023

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

The University of Maryland – College Park, Student Government Association supports HB600 that requires creating a task force to address the issues of cyber flashing and nonconsensual sexual imagery.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Caroline Thorne and I am the Director of Government Affairs for the University of Maryland Student Government Association. On behalf of the SGA, I respectfully request a favorable report of House Bill 600, which would establish a work group to identify legislative solutions to cyber flashing.

Approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of college students have experienced sexual harassment. This bill creates a much needed task force to investigate solutions to cyber flashing, the sending of nonconsensual sexual images. This practice is a huge problem on college campuses. Students are near hundreds of other students daily, living in dorms and apartments, or going to large lecture halls or sporting events. Technology allows us to connect with others constantly and easily, and in some cases, somewhat anonymously. I've personally experienced cyberflashing, specifically with the iPhone Airdrop function. Airdrop allows an individual to send a photo or video to anyone in their vicinity, without needing their contact information. The name associated with the send can be changed, and is often not reflective of who sends the picture. I have since turned this feature off, but this occurs through many other platforms, including texting, snapchat, dating apps and more.

The issue of cyber flashing is an emerging issue, with little to no accountability for perpetrators. Creating a task force to understand the issue and identify well thought out legislative solutions is an essential step to addressing this harassment. On behalf of University of Maryland's Student Government Association (SGA), I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB600.

Thank you,



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