



Governor's Family Violence Council
100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

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Lieutenant Governor

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 544

February 13, 2024

Governor's Family Violence Council

The Governor's Family Violence Council supports House Bill 544, a bill that would institute a prosecution for sexual extortion, stalking, or revenge porn at any time. The bill deems that a person who commits sexual extortion, stalking, or revenge porn shall be deemed to have committed a misdemeanor whose punishment is confinement in the penitentiary and may reserve a point or question for a certain in banc review. Current law sets a statute of limitations to one year after the offense was committed.

House Bill 544 will allow for prosecution of the defendant at any time; eliminating the statute of limitations on sexual extortion, stalking, or revenge porn cases. This bill will allow for victims of these crimes to file charges at any point after the crime occurs, allowing for victims to comfortably come forward when they feel prepared to testify. House Bill 544 aligns with the mission of the Governor's Family Violence Council, which is to provide recommendations that will allow for the reduction and elimination of abusive behaviors.

For these reasons, the Governor's Family Violence Council urges a favorable report on House Bill 544.