



TESTIMONY FOR HB0544
Criminal Law - Sexual Extortion, Stalking, and Revenge Porn – Statute of
Limitations and In Banc Review

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Atterbeary

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0544 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill, if enacted, will make offenses such as sexual extortion, stalking and posting revenge porn charged as misdemeanors. For each of these offenses, prison sentences and financial penalties are specified.

- For sexual extortion, the prison sentence can be no more than 10 years and a penalty of not more than \$10,000.
- For stalking, the prison sentence can be no more than 5 years and a penalty of not more than \$5,000.
- For revenge porn, the prison sentence can be no more than 2 years and a penalty of not more than \$5,000.

These offenses would be prosecuted within one year.

These are all offenses where someone preys on another person and threatens them or harms them. They are all crimes that leave their victims with scars and our members are relieved to see that there are penalties and jail time associated with them.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.