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March 13, 2024

The Honorable Luke Clippinger Chair, House Judiciary Committee House Office Building, Room 101 6 Bladen St Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Luke Clippinger,

On behalf of the majority of the Women Legislators of Maryland members, we are writing to support HB544 Criminal Law – Sexual Extortion, Stalking, and Revenge Porn – Statute of Limitations and In Banc Review.

This bill provides that the State may institute a prosecution for sexual extortion, stalking, or revenge porn at any time and providing that, for purposes of the Maryland Constitution, 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. This legislation ensures that those who seek harm through the listed offenses are prosecuted through imprisonment or fines. The Women Legislators of Maryland fully support the safety and well-being of women and, therefore, offer full support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Delegate Edith J. Patterson

President