



SB - 889 - Distribution of Students' Personal Information - Prohibition
Ways & Means Committee
February 26, 2025
Position: Favorable

The Maryland Out of School Time (MOST) Network is a statewide organization committed to closing opportunity gaps by increasing both the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged youth. We believe that ensuring young people have safe and supportive environments—both online and offline—is critical to their success.

Today's youth navigate an increasingly complex digital landscape where their personal information can be weaponized, leading to harmful and unsafe situations. One of the most alarming tactics used in cyberbullying is doxing—the deliberate search for and publication of private or identifying information about an individual online, typically with malicious intent. The consequences of doxing can be devastating, including identity theft, reputational damage, and severe emotional distress. In the most tragic cases, victims of cyber harassment have experienced deep psychological trauma, self-harm, and even suicide.

Senate Bill 889 takes a critical step in addressing this growing issue by establishing meaningful consequences for doxing, serving as both a deterrent and a protective measure for students. Beyond enforcement, this bill also presents an opportunity to strengthen school educational initiatives. We encourage schools to use this legislation as a catalyst for increased awareness and prevention efforts, counseling students on the risks associated with bullying, cyber harassment, and doxing. Research shows that individuals who engage in these harmful behaviors are often victims themselves, perpetuating a destructive cycle. By taking proactive measures, we can work to break this cycle and create a safer environment for all students.

For these reasons, the Maryland Out of School Time Network **strongly supports Senate Bill 889** and urges the committee to issue a **favorable report**.

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