

February 26, 2025
Chair William Smith, Jr.
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony Favorable for SB889 Criminal Law - Distribution of Students' Personal Information - Prohibition

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

My name is Noor Daoud, and I am a student at River hill high school. I am here today to express my strong support for SB889, which seeks to protect students and young individuals from the dangerous and severe impacts of doxxing.

In today's digital world, a persons personal information is more accessible than ever, and young people are especially vulnerable to having their private details exploited maliciously. Doxxing—which is intentionally disclosing someone's personal information without consent—can be used as a weapon for harassment, intimidation, and even physical harm. Unfortunately, students and young professionals, particularly those involved in advocacy, journalism, or public discourse, are frequent targets.

As a student and member of my community, I have witnessed firsthand how doxxing can severely majorly impact someone's life. Several people I know have been doxxed, and the consequences have been devastating—ruining reputations, limiting career opportunities, and, in some cases, leaving individuals fearful for their safety. These experiences have caused many students to become hesitant or outright fearful of expressing their opinions or participating in public discourse because they know their personal information could be exposed and used against them.

This bill is crucial because it provides the nessasry protections for individuals under 25, ensuring that young people can engage freely in civic life without the fear of having all their information leaked. It would give them the peace of mind to express themselves, knowing that there are legal protections in place to prevent their personal information from being weaponized.

The fear of doxxing is not abstract—it's a very real issue that affects students' mental health and well-being. Many are afraid to use their constitutional rights or to stand up for their beliefs, as they worry that doing so could put their personal information at risk. Passing SB889 would send a strong message that Maryland stands with its young people, ensuring that their rights to free expression and safety are protected.

I urge the committee to support this bill and take an important step toward creating a safer environment for young individuals in our state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Noor Daoud
River Hill High School, Junoir