

## **SB889 Template Testimony**

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 Rachel Turner-Siewert. I am here today to express my strong support for SB889.

This bill is a crucial step in protecting young individuals from the dangerous impacts of doxxing and ensuring that there are structures in place to hold perpetrators accountable.

I want to share a personal story about my own experience with doxxing.

When I was 18 and a college student, I sent a private message to a friend—something deeply personal that I intended only for her.

The next morning, I received a call from my mom. She told me that my message had been posted publicly. Not only that, but my entire family—my grandparents, my professors, my friends, and acquaintances—had all been tagged.

Everyone I knew had access to the confidential information I had shared in what I believed was a private conversation. I still don't know exactly how it happened, though I suspect retaliation from an ex. What I do remember, vividly, is the moment I realized what had happened—the horror, as if the floor had dropped out from under me.

I was fortunate. My family and friends stood by me, offering love and support. I still have a letter from my aunt expressing her concern and reminding me that I was not alone. But even with that support, I experienced significant mental trauma, and my college education was disrupted.

I was lucky in that the information exposed primarily affected me and my personal reputation. Many others are not so lucky.

The consequences of doxxing can be devastating, particularly for young people—students, young professionals, and those engaged in advocacy, journalism, or community organizing. Without protections in place, they are left vulnerable to harassment, intimidation, and real-world harm.

As a mother, and as someone who is learning to engage in activism and community organizing, I urge this committee to support SB889. This bill is a crucial step toward creating a safer digital environment for young individuals in Maryland.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,**

**Rachel Turner-Siewert**