



Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
February 28, 2025

Bill: Senate Bill 889 – Criminal Law - Distribution of Students' Personal Information - Prohibition

Position: Support

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists in Maryland. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state. School psychologists provide comprehensive psychological services to children in Maryland's schools, including counseling, consultation and assessment. We are writing in support of SB 889, which is designed to protect students from harmful use of their image and personal information.

Almost every student in high school these days seems to be active on social media, as are many in middle school as well. But as social media use by young people has increased, so has the potential for harm. During these formative years some students can be highly vulnerable to social stressors, and experience strong feelings of anxiety and depression. In many cases these mental health concerns can be exacerbated by involvement with social media, and in some unfortunate cases the harm caused can be intentional. The consequences can be devastating for a vulnerable student, leading to heightened anxiety, depression, and even self-harm.

This bill seeks to prevent the potential harm that the public disclosure of their image and/or their personal information could cause to a vulnerable young person. MSPA urges you to consider a favorable report on SB 889. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at legislative@mspaonline.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Leposa, PHD NCSP
Co-Chair, Legislative Committee
Maryland School Psychologists' Association

