

Rachel Battaglia  
2/19/2025  
SB #889

**Testimony in Support of Criminal Law- Distribution of Student's Personal Information-Prohibition**

Senator's and Chairman's of this committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Rachel Battaglia, and I am a student at Linganore High School, in Frederick County MD. I am here to express my strong support for the bill SB#889, which seeks to prohibit a person from distributing personal identifying information or images of a student enrolled in an institution of education, that will be used to harm the student or with reckless discard for the risk.

I believe this legislation is critical to help protect future potential victims. Current legislation falls short to address what happens online today. Updates to the law to include "reckless discard for the risk" will hold those who prey on victims online for purposes beyond financial gain, accountable for their disgusting actions. Specifically, page 2, section 3-810. Lines 2B. This added amendment will benefit those in the state of Maryland.

I am a victim whose name and images were used to create social media accounts impressing me, to attract men in a sexual manner. Additionally, my father and another 20 other fellow students were affected by one person who sought to identify as us, creating over 75 fake accounts, with thousands of followers. Thus, I can attest on behalf of myself and others to the importance of this bill to prevent defamation of character, and the fear of having your name and images used for someone else's benefit. The current statute does not protect victims or severe punishment for the people responsible for these acts.

Furthermore, I believe that the implementation of this law will limit and prevent cyber crimes being committed and protect citizens personal identifying information from being mis-used.

I respectfully urge you to support this important legislation and work toward its passage. Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Battaglia