

Maryland State House of Representatives

March 4, 2025

Bill # HB1282 "Uploading Criminal Activity on Social Media Application - Prohibition"

"Otherwise known as Makenzi's Law"

Bill # HB1282 – Hearing date March 6, 2025

My name is Deborah Dolores Carlson. I am 66 years of age and a lifelong resident of Carroll County Maryland. I would like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my concern about the safety of our Maryland residents, adults and youth here today and to give my support of Bill #HB1282.

It is our duty and responsibility as residents and adults to provide a safe atmosphere and environment for Maryland residents, adults and youth. Many people are recording videos on cellphones and other electronic devices of criminal events and attacks. Then they are uploading those videos on the internet via Social Media Applications. It is unfair for the innocent persons and victims of such crimes because the intent of the posting is sometimes intentionally harmful to the victim. This is inconceivable to me and to many others in this State. This is dangerous to the life and mental stability of the victim.

Our goal as a caring people and State should be to protect the innocent from the harms of Criminal behavior to the best of our ability. These uploaded videos cause the innocent victim much unwarranted anxiety, depression, a feeling of helplessness, a feeling of being unsafe, and some have feelings/acts of suicide. We can change this fear, anxiety and depression and feelings/acts of suicide.

Bill #HB1282 otherwise known as Makenzi's Law, named due to a criminal and violent attack in 2022 made upon a fourteen-year-old Carroll County young girl named Makenzi. She was attacked and beaten outside of a mall in Carroll County Maryland, the attacker's friend or relative took a video of the criminal attack against Makenzi. The video of the attack was then uploaded to the internet. This act was harmful to Makenzi, causing her to be victimized twice from the same criminal attack. It is time to stop this activity that has become repeatedly harmful to our residents here in Maryland.

I am an 8th generation Carroll County Maryland resident and have lived in Carroll County Maryland for 66 years, my lifetime. I am Makenzi's maternal Grandmother. She was my heart. She and I were extremely close. I miss her every minute of every day. My hope is that the passing of this bill will prevent others from suffering in the way that she did due to the bullying behavior and to the uploading of videos to the internet of the criminal attack. Thank you for your time and consideration concerning this crucial Maryland matter of cruelty to innocent Maryland residents.

Bill #HB1282 will prohibit an individual from uploading a video of a crime to a Social Media Application with the intent to promote or condone that activity. If found guilty, the individual will be convicted of a misdemeanor that is punishable by a fine of \$2,500.00 and/or imprisonment for no more than one year.

Sincerely,

Deborah Dolores Carlson

Makenzi's "Gamaw"

