

HB1150

March 7th, 2025

Maryland House Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Testimony SUPPORTING HB1150

Dear Chairperson Clippinger and the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today in strong support of HB1150, an essential bill that will provide much-needed protections for Maryland students of all backgrounds against the deeply harmful practice of doxxing.

This is a common sense protection for students in our state, and a practical evolution alongside the evolution of technology being used in nefarious ways. Doxxing has become an increasingly dangerous tool for harassment, intimidation, and violence, and students, particularly those advocating for social causes or in underserved or marginalized groups, are especially vulnerable to targeted attacks that expose their personal information online.

The repercussions of these attacks can be severe, including death threats, threats to their physical safety, loss of employment, emotional distress, and lasting reputational harm. I have personally experienced doxxing for advocacy work as an adult, and it was a truly frightening and negatively impactful situation.

By passing this bill, you will help our state take a crucial step in protecting students from these harmful practices. This bill strikes a careful balance between safeguarding free speech and ensuring that individuals cannot misuse online platforms to threaten and intimidate students.

I urge you to prioritize student safety and find a favorable report for HB1150. Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your efforts to making Maryland a safer state for all students.

Sincerely,

Mary Ella Jourdak