

Favorable Support for HB 1282 – Criminal Law: Uploading Criminal Activity on Social Media Application (MaKenzi's Law) 255 Clifton Blvd., Ste 313
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Dear Judiciary Committee,

My name is Rachael Cash, and I am the founder of the Bee a Rae of Sunshine Foundation, an organization dedicated to advocating for antibullying initiatives, youth mental health awareness, compassion for animals, and scholarship opportunities. Today, I write to you not only as a representative of this foundation but as a mother who has personally experienced the devastating consequences of cyberbullying.

In December 2022, my 14-year-old daughter, MaKenzi Rae, tragically lost her life due to the overwhelming mental health effects of relentless bullying. MaKenzi was a bright, kind, and compassionate freshman at Westminster High School. She endured bullying both in person and online and was even physically attacked off school grounds by another student. This assault was recorded and widely shared on social media, further amplifying her humiliation and distress. The public exposure of her pain deepened her suffering, making it nearly impossible for her to escape the emotional torment.

The act of recording and sharing violent incidents online has become far too common, often turning acts of aggression into entertainment at the victim's expense. These videos not only traumatize those involved but also encourage further violence by rewarding aggressors with attention and notoriety. It is time to hold individuals accountable for using social media to spread harm.

For these reasons, I urge you to support **HB 1282 – Criminal Law: Uploading Criminal Activity on Social Media Application (MaKenzi's Law).** This bill will prohibit individuals from uploading videos of criminal acts, including physical assaults, with the intent to promote or condone the activity. By preventing the spread of such harmful content, we can help protect victims from further trauma, discourage bullying and violence, and create a safer digital environment for all.

No family should have to endure the pain of watching their loved one's suffering turned into viral content. Passing **MaKenzi's Law** is a necessary step in protecting our children and ensuring that social media is not weaponized against them.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your leadership in addressing this critical issue, and I hope you will stand with me in supporting **HB 1282** to prevent further harm to individuals after being a victim of a criminal act.

Sincerely, Rachael Cash Founder, Bee a Rae of Sunshine Foundation

