
BILL NO:	Senate Bill 0932
TITLE:	Consumer Protection – Social Media Platforms – Display of User Location
COMMITTEE:	Economic Matters
HEARING DATE:	April 01, 2026
POSITION:	OPPOSE

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is dedicated to ensuring the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women throughout the State. Based on our work with survivors of intimate partner violence, we are concerned that Senate Bill 932 would undermine user safety and privacy, and we respectfully urge an unfavorable report.

SB 932 would require social media platforms to display the general geographic location of adult users to other users in Maryland. Although described as a "general" location, this requirement would nonetheless compel platforms to publicly disclose sensitive personal information. Many individuals—including domestic violence survivors, journalists, public officials, and others—depend on the ability to engage online without revealing their geographic location.

Mandating the disclosure of even city-level location data could expose users to harassment, stalking, intimidation, or other threats to their physical safety. For survivors in particular, the ability to remain anonymous or limit identifying information online is often critical to maintaining their safety and independence.

Additionally, SB 932 would require adult users—but not minors—to publicly reveal their location. This distinction could unintentionally make it easier for bad actors to identify which accounts belong to children, increasing the risk of exploitation and harm.

The real-world implications of this bill are deeply concerning. Imagine a woman who has left an abusive partner and relocated to a new city in Maryland to start over safely. Under SB 932, if she uses social media, her profile would indicate her new location. This disclosure could allow her abuser or other harmful individuals to determine where she is living, placing her at renewed risk.

While we understand that this is not the intent of the legislation, we do not see a way to remedy these serious safety concerns within the framework of the bill. Keeping our laws up to date with evolving technology is important, but we cannot do so in ways that endanger vulnerable individuals or create new risks for survivors.

For these reasons, the Women's Law Center of Maryland respectfully urges the Committee to issue an unfavorable report on SB 932. Laws should protect survivors—not create new tools that could be used to harm them.