



**Working to end sexual violence in Maryland**

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**Testimony Opposing Senate Bill 932**  
**Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel**  
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The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI), a statewide legal services provider for survivors of sexual assault. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Economic Matters Committee to report unfavorably on Senate Bill 932.

**Senate Bill 932**

**Social Media Platforms - Display of User Location**

**Risk of Harm to Children and to Survivors of Sexual Assault**

SB932 would require all social media users to publicly reveal their location. Minors would be exempt from this requirement.

**This bill would jeopardize the safety of children and of survivors of abuse.** Amendments on the Senate floor attempted to address some of these concerns but did not resolve the concerns and unintended consequences of this legislation.

**SB932 attempts to protect children, but inadvertently makes it easy for sexual predators to identify who is a child.** This bill requires the location of adults who are posting to social media, and exempts minors from this requirement. This was, we believe, an attempt to protect children. Unfortunately, it will allow sexual predators to easily identify minors – they will be the posts with no locations.

**Senate Floor Amendments did not eliminate danger for survivors of abuse.**

SB932 tried to reduce the risk for victims of family violence or others fleeing abuse by allowing survivors who certify that they are in Maryland's Address Confidentiality Program to keep their location private. Additional amendments expanded the location disclosure from city to state (or comparable). While these are improvements, they do not ameliorate the danger the bill would cause.

Imagine you're a woman experiencing abuse in Florida. You flee to your mom's house in Maryland to escape the violence. Under this bill, if you use social media, your profiles will all

show that you're no longer in Florida and are now in Maryland. It is not a stretch to imagine that the abuser will be able to figure out that you're at your mom's house.

**Unintended consequences.**

MCASA wishes to make it clear that we do not believe any of the issues we raise were intended by the sponsor or the Senate. Many of the advocates for children and survivors, as well as our colleagues in special victim units in State's Attorneys Offices, work together and, unfortunately, we missed the issues with this bill prior to the House hearing. There does not appear to be a way to remedy these concerns, however, we are happy to work with the sponsor and other bill advocates if they wish to discuss appropriate amendments.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the  
Economic Matters Committee to  
report unfavorably on Senate Bill 932**

