



Bill No: Senate Bill 932
Bill Title: Consumer Protection - Social Media Platforms - Display of User Location
Committee: House Judiciary
Hearing Date: April 1, 2026
Position: UNFAV

House of Ruth is a non-profit organization providing shelter, counseling, and legal services to victims of domestic violence throughout the State of Maryland. House of Ruth has offices in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County.

We respectfully urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 932.

This legislation proposes that social media platforms disclose the general geographic location of users to other users on the platform. While intended to increase transparency online, the proposal introduces significant safety concerns for vulnerable individuals.

For survivors of intimate partner violence and stalking, disclosing location data — even generally — can significantly heighten the risk of being tracked or identified by an abuser. Many survivors rely on social media to maintain community connections, access resources, and start anew, all while carefully avoiding sharing identifiable location details such as street signs or distinctive backgrounds. Requiring the disclosure of location information compromises these meticulously planned safety precautions and may unintentionally put survivors at greater risk.

The bill also introduces unforeseen risks for minors. Although the legislation aims to exclude minors from sharing location data, the absence of such data can itself suggest that an account likely belongs to a minor, making it easier for malicious actors and online predators to identify and target youth.

At a time when policymakers across the country are working to strengthen online privacy protections and mitigate digital harms, SB 932 moves in the opposite direction by mandating the public display of location data.

We acknowledge that this legislation is well-intentioned and aims to promote transparency and accountability in digital spaces. However, the risks outlined above constitute significant unintended consequences that could threaten the safety of individuals already in highly vulnerable situations. As advocates and service providers, it is our responsibility to raise these concerns to prevent policies from inadvertently increasing the dangers faced by survivors. Protecting those fleeing violence must remain a top priority in any legislation affecting online safety and privacy.

The House of Ruth urges the House Judiciary Committee to submit an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 932.

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