

Dear Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Philip Ateto and I am a lifelong Marylander, currently residing in Annapolis, in Anne Arundel County. I am writing in support of SB 107 - Criminal Law – Distribution of Students' Personal Information – Prohibition.

In these times where anyone who speaks out against this Presidential administration, or the actions of the U.S. Government is at increasing risk for being physically attacked, it is especially important that people are not allowed to publicly post students personal information. Allowing people to do so invites more extreme people to adopt a lynch mob mentality and show up to intimidate, harrass, or do physical or other harm to students who exercise their First Amendment rights in a way that our government might not like. This is especially relevant for college students, who are, and have long been the moral conscience of this country, telling inconvenient truths and shining light on the darker things our country participates in.

While this is not a catch all solution to these risks, it at least adds another layer to dissuade people from putting students more at risk for harm.

Thank you for your time and consideration.