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**SB 8 - Criminal Law – Identity Fraud – Artificial Intelligence and Deepfake  
Representations  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
January 22, 2026  
FAVORABLE**

Good Afternoon, Chairman Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 8, regarding Artificial Intelligence and Deepfake Representations. My name is Sara Westrick, Advocacy Director for AARP Maryland. As you may know, AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the state, encompassing almost 850,000 members. AARP Maryland thanks Senators Hester, Love, and Hettleman for sponsoring this legislation.

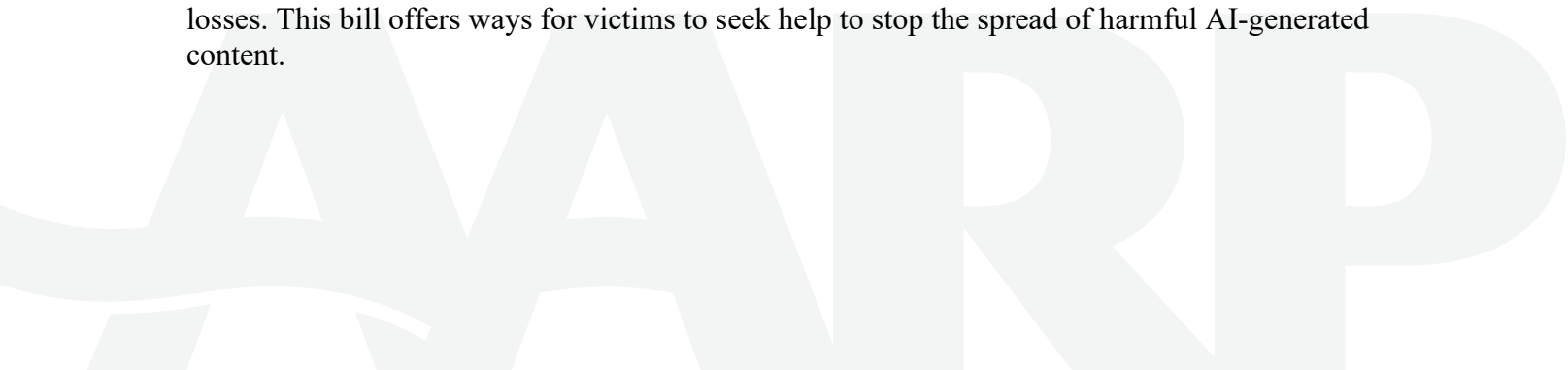
AARP Maryland welcomes SB 8 because it modernizes Maryland’s identity fraud laws to address the rapidly growing threat of AI-generated impersonations and deepfake technology. Marylanders, especially older adults, face increasingly sophisticated scams made possible by artificial intelligence.

Deepfake audio, video, and images can now convincingly replicate a person’s identity, voice, or likeness. SB 8 responds directly to these dangers by prohibiting the use of someone’s personal identifying information with fraudulent intent to cause physical injury, emotional distress, or economic harm. This represents a critical update to Maryland’s Code at a moment when AI-driven fraud is expanding quickly.

AARP hears from older Marylanders every day who have been targeted by scams that begin with impersonation, whether of a family member, a caregiver, or a government agency. With AI-generated voices and images becoming widely accessible, the risks of financial exploitation, emotional trauma, and reputational harm are escalating.

**Why AARP Maryland Supports SB 8**

SB 8 provides clear legal standards for prosecutors and law enforcement to act swiftly against AI-enabled fraud. It also establishes real accountability for individuals who weaponize deepfakes to manipulate, coerce, or deceive by establishing appropriate criminal penalties for those convicted of these crimes. Those who are victimized can suffer life-changing and devastating losses. This bill offers ways for victims to seek help to stop the spread of harmful AI-generated content.



Most importantly, this bill upholds the dignity, safety, and financial security of Maryland residents; these are values central to AARP's mission and commitment to protecting persons age 50 and older from fraud and identity theft. We welcome the provisions that authorize victims of deepfake crimes to seek redress by bringing civil action against those who commit these crimes. The courts are then empowered to issue an injunction and to grant any other appropriate relief that could help victims recover.

## **Conclusion**

Artificial intelligence is advancing at a pace our laws must keep up with, and this bill targets malicious misuse, not innovation. SB 8 is a thoughtful, urgently needed response to ensure that Marylanders are protected from the misuse of AI technologies.

AARP Maryland respectfully urges a **favorable report** on SB 8, which creates guardrails to support technological progress while safeguarding Maryland residents from abuse.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick at [swestrick@aarp.org](mailto:swestrick@aarp.org) or by calling 410-310-0374.