



TESTIMONY FOR SB0008
Criminal Law- Identity Fraud – Artificial Intelligence and Deepfake
Representations

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hester

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0008 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill, if enacted, prohibits anyone from taking another person's personal identifying information without consent in order to cause harm or harass or intimidate/threaten that person. It also prohibits anyone from knowingly using or sending an image or a video that is indistinguishable from the person's real image in order to impersonate that person to gain something of value or to cause harm.

These are important safeguards. We seem to have gone from a place where technology was not advanced enough to cause these problems to already have that same technology weaponized against us with few guardrails in place and little recourse for the person who was harmed.

If this bill is enacted there would be penalties for this kind of behavior. It would make both scenarios felonies with penalties ranging from 5 – 10 years in prison and \$10,000 - \$15,000 in fines, depending on the circumstances. It would also allow the victim to file a civil suit to get restitution.

We understand the harm that these acts can cause. They can destroy lives. We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.