

SB 107, Criminal Law, Distribution of Students' Pe

Uploaded by: Carlos Orbe, Jr.

Position: FAV

January 23, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.

Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

2 East Miller Senate Office Building

2 East Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for SB 107, Criminal Law, Distribution of Students' Personal Information, Prohibition

Dear Chair Smith,

Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU) is honored to express our strong support for Senate Bill 107, Criminal Law, Distribution of Students' Personal Information, Prohibition. SB 107 prohibits distributing personal identifying information or images of a student in secondary or postsecondary education when there is intent or knowledge the information will be used to harm the student, or with reckless disregard for that risk, and establishes misdemeanor penalties. SB 107 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee on January 27, 2026 at 1:00 p.m., and the bill's effective date is October 1, 2026.

Latino and immigrant students are increasingly vulnerable to harassment, intimidation, and targeted exposure, including doxxing and threats connected to national origin, language, or immigration status of family members. Protecting students from malicious distribution of personal information is essential for educational equity because a student cannot learn in a climate of fear.

SB 107 strengthens safeguards that support attendance, mental well being, and a school environment where students can participate in extracurriculars, seek counseling, and engage with educators without fearing retaliation or exposure. Clear legal standards also help schools and families respond quickly when harm occurs.

MLU will amplify SB 107's protective intent by sharing digital safety education with families, supporting culturally responsive outreach on student rights, and partnering with school based organizations to ensure families understand reporting pathways and available supports.

MLU urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 107, protecting students and reinforcing safe learning environments across Maryland.

Sincerely,

Carlos Orbe, Jr.

Communications and Public Affairs Specialist

Maryland Latinos Unidos

corbejr@mdlatinosunidos.org

SB0107 _Criminal Law _ – _Distribution _of _Student

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0107

Criminal Law – Distribution of Students’ Personal Information – Prohibition

Bill Sponsor: Senator Henson

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Cochair

Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0107 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

SB0107 addresses a growing problem: the misuse of students’ personal information. The bill makes it clear that no one may distribute a student’s personal identifying information or images that may result in harm. It covers students in both secondary and post-secondary institutions and responds directly to the rise in doxxing, harassment, and online targeting that can derail a young person’s education and well-being. At the same time, the bill allows for legitimate academic, journalistic, and expressive activities. So protections are strong without limiting free speech.

Students deserve to learn and participate in their communities without worrying that their personal information will be used against them. SB0107 gives Maryland a clear, reasonable framework to prevent these harms and to hold people accountable when they occur. It’s a practical step that strengthens safety and trust in our schools and campuses.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports legislation that improves the lives of Marylanders through better education, stronger public safety, and a more just society. Protecting students from targeted harassment and misuse of their personal information is squarely within that mission.

We respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB0107.

1-27-26 SB 107 Testimony by Grady O'Rear.pdf

Uploaded by: Grady ORear

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of SB 107
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee — Hearing: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 (1:00 p.m.)

Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Grady O’Rear. I am a Maryland resident, submitting this testimony **in support of SB 107**.

SB 107 is a practical, carefully drawn protection against a specific modern threat: doxxing—the distribution of a student’s personal identifying information or images, without consent, with intent or knowledge it will be used to harm the student, or with reckless disregard for the risk of harm. The bill establishes misdemeanor penalties of up to 1 year imprisonment and/or a \$5,000 fine.

This bill matters because it protects student safety without undermining free speech. Students should never have to choose between participating in civic life and fearing that their home address, phone number, or personal images will be weaponized against them. SB 107 targets harmful conduct—not viewpoints, not peaceful protest, not criticism of government, and not constitutionally protected debate.

I speak from experience. Many years ago as a student at the University of Maryland, I—and many other students across the country—protested the war in Vietnam and the bombing of Cambodia and Laos. Those protests were instrumental in helping to stop the carnage and to confront actions widely viewed as unlawful and immoral. History shows that organized, lawful public dissent is often essential to correcting government wrongdoing.

That principle remains true today. When the federal government acts in ways that violate international and/or domestic law, it is especially important that residents, citizens, and local and state governments can stand in solidarity—openly and safely. Doxxing is a form of intimidation designed to silence participation. SB 107 reduces that threat and helps preserve the conditions under which free speech is real, not merely theoretical.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a **Favorable Report** on SB 107.

Thank you for your consideration.

Grady O’Rear

1726 Shookstown Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Practical committee note (so your submission conforms): for this committee, oral testimony is typically **2 minutes**, and sign-up/written testimony submission opens **two business days before the hearing (8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.)** through a MyMGA account.

Letter in Support_SB 107.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Wilt

Position: FAV



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

Continuing the Missions of the Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation, Inc.

☎ 877-VICTIM-1 (877-842-8461) ✉ mail@mdcrimevictims.org 🌐 mdcrimevictims.org

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 107

January 23, 2026

Headquarters

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On behalf of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center (MCVRC), I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 107. MCVRC provides legal services for crime victims throughout Maryland and is the largest nonprofit of its kind in the country. We write on behalf of our ever-increasing number of clients who have suffered as a result of identity theft and our young clients who have had their images and names used without their consent for the reckless gratification of the offender.

One specific client was part of a group of six girls who all had their names and images used by an offender, not for financial gain but rather for his own perverse entertainment. These young girls' names and images were posted all over multiple social media accounts, and the offender interacted with strangers from all over the world having deviant conversations pretending to be the young girls. Because the State did not have evidence that the offender was benefiting financially, there was no charge of identity theft that could be brought.

These girls had their reputations ruined by this offender's online activity and there was nothing the police or court could do about it. I urge your support for this legislation that will provide some form of protection against this form of online harassment and identity theft. The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence and other tools available to bad actors make it easier than ever to steal identities, fabricate images, and circulate false or harmful content with devastating consequences for victims.

As in the example I gave, existing laws are often inadequate to respond adequately to these violations or to ensure victims receive swift remedies. Our statutes need to adjust with the times. This legislation represents a critical step forward.

Passing Senate Bill 107 would allow courts to respond in new ways to these evolving threats to our Marylanders' reputations and safety. MCVRC encourages the Senate to pass SB 107 to help address the ever-changing nature of online activity used to victimize others.

Thank you for considering the support of SB 107 and your broader commitment to protecting Maryland families from these persistent, ever-evolving harms.

Sincerely,

Laura Corbett Wilt, Senior Supervising Attorney
240-335-4004; lwilt@mdcrimevictims.org

Joined by: Joanna Mupanduki, Deputy Director & Kurt Wolfgang, Executive Director

Testimony SB0107-MaryEllaJourdak-Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Ella Jourdak

Position: FAV

SB107

Hello, my name is Mary Ella Jourdak. I am here today in strong support of SB107, an essential bill that will provide much-needed protections for Maryland students truly of all backgrounds against the deeply harmful practice of doxxing.

This is honestly a pretty common sense protection for students in our state and a practical evolution alongside the change of social environments that technology creates, especially when it is used in nefarious ways. Doxxing has become an increasingly dangerous tool for harassment, intimidation, and violence, and students, particularly those advocating for social causes or in underserved or marginalized groups, are especially vulnerable to targeted attacks that expose their personal information online.

I have personally experienced doxxing for anti-racism advocacy work as an adult, and it was a truly frightening ordeal that still echos through my life in ways that are unsettling and disturbing. Especially in light of how students are continuing to become targets of fascistic practices by our federal and executive branches of government, we need this step towards protecting our students here in Maryland.

I urge you to prioritize student safety and find a favorable report for SB107. Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your efforts to making Maryland a safer state for all students.

2026 SB107 Anti-Doxxing Ateto Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Philip Ateto

Position: FAV

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.

2026-01-23 SB107 Support Paper OAG.pdf

Uploaded by: Rhea Harris

Position: FAV

CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI
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Chief of Staff

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General

January 27, 2026

TO: The Honorable Will Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Rhea Harris
Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: SB0107– Criminal Law – Distribution of Students’ Personal Information –
Prohibition - **Support**

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports SB0107– Criminal Law – Distribution of Students’ Personal Information – Prohibition. SB107 prohibits a person from distributing personal identifying information or images of a student enrolled in an institution of secondary education or an institution of postsecondary education with intent or knowledge that the information will be used to harm the student or with reckless disregard for the risk the information will be used to harm the student; and provides that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to imprisonment of up to 1 year or a fine of up to \$5,000 or both.

As Maryland's elected Chief Legal Officer, the Attorney General supervises and directs the legal business of the State. The Office of the Attorney General advises and represents State institutions, agencies, boards, commissions, and officials, while representing Maryland's interests in state and federal litigation. The Attorney General uses his authority to enforce the rule of law, protect Marylanders, and promote the public good.

This legislation directly supports our efforts to protect and promote the public good by protecting Maryland’s most vulnerable populations. Children are among the most vulnerable in our society, and OAG makes special efforts to protect them from harm. The doxxing of minors has become an alarming trend, particularly in contexts involving political or religious conversation. Children and their families who express views on contentious issues, or who are simply associated with controversial positions through their parents' activities, increasingly find themselves targeted by malicious actors who publish their home addresses, school locations, phone numbers, and other

personal information online. This exposure subjects minors to threats, harassment, and real-world danger, often forcing families to relocate, change schools, or withdraw from civic participation entirely. Senate Bill 107 recognizes that children deserve heightened protection from digital threats and that those who deliberately endanger them must be held accountable.

We appreciate the General Assembly's work on this important policy and welcome the opportunity to share our perspective. For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General respectfully urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 107 a favorable report.

sb107 testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Riona Sheikh

Position: FAV

January 27, 2026

Chair William Smith, Jr.
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB107 Distribution of Students' Personal Information -
Prohibition**

Good afternoon. My name is Riona Sheikh, and I am a student at the University of Maryland, College Park. I am here to share my experience being doxxed as vice president of my university's student government, and why protections like Senate Bill 107 are urgently needed.

On the evening of September 30, 2025, I was in the middle of writing an essay. It was due that night, and I only had a few things to wrap up before I could submit.

That's when I checked my messages. Someone sent me a link to a Twitter post.

It had thousands of likes and hundreds of comments. This was posted on an account with over 300,000 followers.

And right there was a photo of my face, and a few other students' photos, on a black background with a caption that listed our positions in the student government, our first and last names, and the words "future employers take note."

This account, "Stop Antisemitism", sought to paint me and a few other members of the University of Maryland's student government as antisemitic – a claim that's not only untrue, but that none of us had anything to do with. I believe the account chose to target us because of our high positions in the student government, and because of the color of our skin.

But I had little time to be upset about the libel. Because the comments on the account were overwhelming enough.

Hundreds upon hundreds of people were calling to deport us. Many comments were saying that we looked Muslim, calling us terrorists and terrorist sympathizers. Many comments, too, were insulting our physical appearances.

I turned off my phone because I had had enough. I had a paper to finish. And somehow, I managed to finish my paper. I barely turned it in on time. I felt weird, and I didn't know what to do. But with time, it would pass, right?

Unfortunately, I was wrong. Getting doxxed was very hard to get over.

The next day, that post was circulated on many different accounts. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook. I saw that it made it to the Atlanta Coalition of Israel.

I woke up feeling horrible, kind of dazed. I tried to go to class: I walked 20 minutes, went in the building and up the stairs and stood outside my classroom door, but I couldn't make myself go in. I had all these texts asking if I was okay, that I didn't reply to. I went to the prayer space for Muslims on campus, instead. People didn't know what to say to me.

I didn't know what to do with myself. I called a friend or two, and they told me to rest, but I didn't know how. Some people told me that it looked like the account put my photo on a hit list. And someone told me that all it would take is one person with a gun to see a post with four brown kids and our job positions, to just show up at our public student government meetings. I started to realize that if my face and job position could be shared so easily, my address or class schedule could be next. Once something like this starts, how would anyone know where it ends?

Suddenly it hit me. Anyone around me could have seen that post. I felt exposed and vulnerable. I broke down crying in public and walked all the way to my friend's apartment. I didn't want to be alone. I was there for hours. I missed my student government meeting. It was a special, meaningful meeting that I would have loved to have gone to. But I was afraid of what might happen and who might show up.

One of the worst things was telling my parents.

They knew that it would always be a risky thing for someone who looks like me to be outspoken and openly advocate for things. I had always tried to be careful before. I worded my thoughts carefully and tried to stay out of controversy. My parents worried a lot about me taking a more public-facing position, but I was so sure that everything would be fine and nothing remotely unsafe could happen to me.

I tried so hard to convince my dad not to worry. My dad has serious heart issues and health problems. He had a heart attack when I was 15, and he's never been the same. So when I got doxxed, I didn't want to tell my parents, because I didn't want to send my dad to the hospital again.

It sucked having this whole burden to carry on my own as I thought for days whether I should or shouldn't tell my parents. I felt so stressed and alone and I couldn't really go to anyone for help. I skipped class for days. I was always a straight-A student, but last semester, that got messed up. I also gained a new fear — that employers really would see this and start to think differently of me. It wasn't true, but this can't ever be taken down.

Like I said, I tried so hard to stay out of controversy. But none of that was enough to protect me.

Because if someone knows they can do something this horrible and reckless with zero consequences, what's stopping them? If there is no barrier, someone who intends to bring harm to you will surely do it. And that harm doesn't end with you. It stresses out and scares all your friends and all your loved ones.

I still don't know who did this to me. All I know is that they walk freely without consequences, while I took months to feel normal again. My entire life was thrown off rhythm by this.

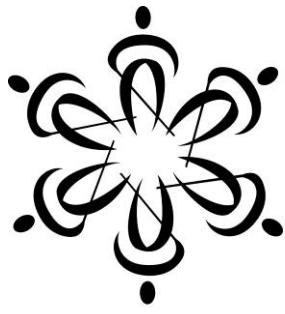
I had always heard about getting doxxed. Once you live it, it's a different story.

Please, please vote in favor of SB-107. I wish something like this had existed before I got doxxed. Maybe it would've prevented this from happening to me. I still feel like all the stressful things that happen to me impact my dad's health and I just want my family and friends to be safe and happy. I'm 19 years old and my focus should be on my academics, work and friends, not on whether I feel like I'm in danger. Thank you.

SB107

Uploaded by: Ronza Othman

Position: FAV



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND
MARYLAND

Live the life you want.

From: Ronza Othman, President
National Federation of the Blind of Maryland
15 Charles Plaza, #3002
Baltimore, MD 21201 president@nfbmd.org

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to give a favorable report to SB0107. This bill criminalizes and prohibits a person from distributing personal information about or images of high school, college, and graduate students with the intent of bullying, doxing, or otherwise causing harm to that person, or willfully disregarding that that student could be harmed. This bill would protect students from underrepresented communities, including blind and low vision students, who are disproportionately targeted by such dangerous behavior.

Blind and low vision individuals are significantly more prone to cyber-bullying, doxing, and other harmful forms of online discrimination and harassment. Research shows that 73% of disabled individuals have experienced online harassment, compared to 50.4% of individuals without disabilities. While there are no specific statistics on doxing, it arguably the most harmful form of online harassment for the blind, because others who publish private information about blind and low vision individuals enable people to target, stalk, and do physical and emotional harm to an already-vulnerable group. A blind or low vision individual is much more susceptible to harm through doxing because they may not be aware of bad actors coming to their homes, following them, or otherwise stalking them.

Additionally, because blindness is an intersectional characteristic, blind and low vision individuals cross other underrepresented groups, including race, color, socio-economic status, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity, etc. Given the political climate and rising incidents of online bullying and doxing, underrepresented communities have experienced a disproportionate increase in such behavior. Thus, it is critical to protect the blind and low vision community, as well as other

marginalized communities, from online bullying and doxing, the majority of which came about due to bad actors trying to silence such individuals after exercising their first amendment rights.

For those reasons and others, we ask for a favorable report on SB0107. For questions, please contact me at President@nfbmd.org or at 443-426-4110.

National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

Ronza Othman, *President NFBMD* | 15 Charles Plaza, #3002, Baltimore, MD 21201 | 443-426-4110 | www.nfbmd.org

SB 107 Template Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Rummy D

Position: FAV

January 27, 2026

Chair William Smith, Jr.
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony In Support of SB107 Distribution of Students' Personal Information - Prohibition

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in strong support of *Senate Bill 107* which would prohibit the unauthorized distribution of students' personal identifying information with intent to harm or reckless disregard for harm.

As a muslim who is politically involved and actively engaged in advocacy, doxxing is a constant fear of people like me who aspire to stay involved in their communities without putting ourselves at risk. I know lots of Muslim friends and family that have been doxxed and living with the constant fear that something similar could happen to me, gives me a sense of immense anxiety and emotional distress. Doxxing is meant to intimidate and silence our voices, and too often it has succeeded. Therefore, It's very important that this bill passes, because doxxing has been weaponized to disproportionately target people of color, advocates for Palestine, and Muslims. Stronger laws against doxxing means better mental health for students. This makes it clear that exposing someone's private information or life to harass or harm is not protected speech, it is a clear form of intimidation. By passing this bill you are saying you care about the well-being of your constituents and are actively against ending discrimination.

Passing this bill affirms that no one should have to choose between their safety and their voice. Please take this opportunity to show your commitment to Muslim students, students of color, and other marginalized communities, so people like me can continue to participate in activism, organize, and speak out without fear of being targeted or endangered for doing so.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 107.

Sincerely,

SB0107 sponsor testimonyJPR1.27.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Shaneka Henson

Position: FAV

SHANEKA HENSON
Legislative District 30
Anne Arundel County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 107

Criminal Law – Distribution of Students’ Personal Information – Prohibition

Colleagues, it is my privilege to present **Senate Bill 107 - Criminal Law – Distribution of Students’ Personal Information – Prohibition**

For the record, I am Shaneka Henson, representing District 30 in Anne Arundel County and member of the JPR Committee

You may recall that in 2025 we introduced this legislation to address the ongoing experiences of students having their identity stolen, used and maliciously doxed and threatened. These are psychological, demeaning and emotional situations – which could include yours and/or grandchildren. In reintroducing this legislation this year, it now reflects the comments received from various sources during the prior hearings.

Under the advocacy leadership of Zainab Chaudry, the Director of Maryland’s Council on American-Islamic Relations, this proposed legislation is based on the real-life situations that now exist within all our educational institutions.

Specifically, this legislation prohibits a person or organization from distributing personal identifying information or images of a student who is enrolled in a secondary and post-secondary educational institution – and doing so with the intent or knowledge that the information will be used to harm the student --or with reckless disregard for the risk to their safety. It stipulates that a person who violates the Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to imprisonment of up to 1 year or a fine of up to \$5,000 or both.

Accompanying Ms. Chaudry is Saad Izaz, both a student and victim at the University of Maryland.

Colleagues, after hearing Ms. Chaudry’s and Mr. Izaz’s statements and reading the testimony submitted for the record, I respectfully urge you to FAVORABLY approve SB107.

SB107 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Shubh Agnihotri

Position: FAV

From: Shubh Agnihotri
To: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
01/23/2025
RE: SB107

Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, my name is Shubh Agnihotri and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Maryland, College Park. I serve on the Student Government Association as the director of Transportation & Infrastructure.

The political nature of my and my colleagues' positions in SGA makes us targets, especially for harassment and doxxing. Many of my colleagues have been doxxed for advocating for pro-Palestine causes, or simply for being associated with our movement as people of color. They have no recourse through student legal aid, university administration, law enforcement or student conduct because under current MD state law, no violation has occurred. Doxxing severely negatively impacted their mental health, academics, and perception of safety on our campus. In a place of higher education and learning, my colleagues were afraid to walk alone, and in some cases, be present on campus at all. University administration also closely monitors and surveils our activity as activists. Members of administration have asked me about plans I never spoke with them about, and I fear retaliation for exercising my first amendment rights. Nobody should have the right to exploit the information they have about students to cause them harm, regardless of their position of power.

The strength of the language and protections that Senator Henson's SB107 provides are crucial for students in this political climate. People should not be able to jeopardize Maryland students' safety, jobs or social life without consequences. Personally identifying information about young people should not be shared without their expressed consent. Marginalized communities more acutely face the brunt of the abuse and harassment that comes along with doxxing. We have a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

I urge a favorable committee report on SB107. Thank you for your work on the Judicial Proceedings Committee and for your consideration of this testimony.

SB107.pdf

Uploaded by: Zainab Chaudry

Position: FAV



Council on American-Islamic Relations

CAIR Office in Maryland

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January 27, 2026

Chair William Smith, Jr.
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony In Support of SB107 Distribution of Students' Personal Information - Prohibition

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the Maryland office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) in support of *Senate Bill 107* which would prohibit the unauthorized distribution of students' personal identifying information with intent to harm or reckless disregard for harm.

CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, and our Maryland office works routinely with students, families, and community members impacted by discrimination, harassment, and online targeting. We believe that SB 107 is a necessary and constitutionally sound step toward protecting students across the state of all faiths and backgrounds from the modern scourge of doxxing – a practice that is becoming increasingly pervasive, dangerous, and deeply harmful.

Doxxing is the act of publicly exposing another person's private information online without consent. While it can affect individuals of all ages, students are especially vulnerable. In 2025, approximately 4% of Americans – an estimated 11 million people – reported being victims of doxxing.¹ One in six Americans (16%) knows a friend or family member who has been doxxed, showing how far the ripple effects extend.¹ About half of victims reported home addresses or emails being exposed, and 1 in 4 reported photos or videos were publicly shared.² (*Sources: SafeHome.org; Education Week research on online safety trends*) These statistics illustrate that doxxing is a serious and growing problem, and our laws are outdated.

Common consequences of being doxxed include threats to personal safety, academic consequences, financial damage, and severe mental health impacts including anxiety and depression. An increasing number of Americans are reporting limiting what they share online out of fear of being doxxed.

The National Association of Attorney Generals confirmed in its August 2025 report that "doxxing incidents are no longer isolated or fringe acts," but rather now represent a broader digital threat paradigm where harassment, misinformation, and real-world violence intersect.³

Students with leadership roles or who are involved in campus activism, are more vulnerable to being targeted, and have suffered:

- Serious emotional distress, including anxiety, depression, and trauma;
- Academic disruption from threats, forced withdrawal from classes, or fear of attending campus;
- Reputational harm, affecting future employment and educational opportunities;
- Death threats and physical safety risks, particularly when personal information including phone numbers, email addresses, and home addresses are made public.

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Numerous studies show that doxxing and related forms of online harassment are associated with serious mental health impacts, including symptoms consistent with PTSD.⁴ Research on victimization among students and young people indicates that disclosure of personal information without consent correlates with emotional distress and psychological harm.

Across the State of Maryland, students from marginalized groups - including immigrant, Jewish, Black, Muslim and Arab backgrounds - have faced heightened risk of doxxing aimed at intimidation or silencing. Targeted campaigns against vulnerable communities often escalate to online harassment, death threats, and backlash that existing gaps in current laws prohibit addressing effectively.

In fact, in multiple cases of doxxing incidents against students at the University of Maryland College Park, campus police notified CAIR that “their hands were tied” and that there was nothing that could be done because no laws were being broken despite the clear harm that was being inflicted against victims of doxxing attacks.

In one particularly egregious case that our office handled, we were informed by Lt. Mable of the University of Maryland Campus Police that they were essentially powerless to intervene in the case of two University of Maryland students who received death threats and suffered substantial emotional, mental and physical consequences after being doxxed by a former roommate who retaliated in this manner after a University investigation concluded that there was no evidence or basis for her accusations of wrongdoing against them.

Existing statutes simply fail to address the unique vulnerabilities of college and university students whose information can be exploited for harassment, threats, and intimidation. SB 107 closes this gap by specifically addressing the malicious distribution of student information and extends protections to students in postsecondary education.

In 2024, CAIR’s Maryland office recorded over 600 civil rights case reports and requests for assistance. Of these, approximately 16% (90+) involved bullying or cyberbullying, including doxxing incidents targeting Muslim, Jewish and Arab students. Many of these students exist at the intersection of multiple marginalized identities, putting them in an even more vulnerable position.

These are not abstract incidents - they have real and lasting consequences on a student’s well-being, academic success, and sense of safety on campus and in the community.

Maryland’s current anti-harassment and cyberbullying laws - including Grace’s Law - address general online harassment and repeated harmful communications for minors, but they do not go far enough. They were not written with modern digital doxxing in mind, nor do they specifically address the nonconsensual distribution of personal information with malicious intent.

Grace’s Law, first passed in 2013 and expanded in 2019, made cyberbullying a misdemeanor. It was enacted after the tragic suicide of teen Grace McComas, who endured relentless online harassment. This law focuses on harassment communications - not the publication of personal data used as a tool to harm. Senate Bill 107 does not criminalize speech, target political advocacy, or punish criticism or protest. Instead, it focuses narrowly on the malicious distribution of a student’s personal identifying information without consent, when done with intent to cause harm or with reckless disregard for that harm. This distinction matters constitutionally and morally.

SB 107 builds on this foundation and seeks to expand on Grace’s Law to provide protections for students in both secondary and post-secondary education.

The First Amendment upholds and protects speech, including speech that is unpopular or offensive. But courts have long recognized that speech integral to criminal conduct - such as threats, harassment, stalking, and intimidation - is not protected. SB 107 is carefully crafted to fit within that constitutional framework.

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It qualifies that our state will not allow the weaponization of personal data against students. It establishes that safety and civil liberties are not mutually exclusive. And it affirms that accountability can coexist with constitutional rights.

At its core, this bill is about preserving students' well-being and safety, and their right to engage in debate and advocate on different causes. Protecting students from doxxing attacks protects the very expression of ideas that the First Amendment was designed to uphold.

Maryland has led our nation before in responding thoughtfully to digital harms. Unfortunately, that action was proceeded by a tragic and avoidable death. It's past time we address the existing gaps, before more serious harm occurs. Passing SB 107 continues the tradition of not silencing speech, but rather drawing a clear line between expression and exploitation.

Senator Henson's proposed bill aligns with the intent of Grace's Law by recognizing that doxxing can lead to harassment, stalking, threats, and real-world violence.

This bill:

1. Prohibits intentional dissemination of students' personal information without consent when done with intent to harm or with reckless disregard for harm.
2. Recognizes the serious physical, emotional, and economic harms caused by doxxing.
3. Provides clear, enforceable penalties - a misdemeanor with up to 1 year in jail or \$5,000 fine - to deter malicious actors.
4. Affirms constitutional protections, including the First Amendment's free speech and press guarantees, by excluding legitimate journalistic or academic uses.

It's important to note that SB 107 balances safety and rights. **It does not criminalize legitimate reporting, research, or academic activity, and clearly excludes protected speech under the U.S. and Maryland Constitutions.**

CAIR is a strong advocate for free speech and supports this measure as constitutionally sound. Our office has also spoken to students victimized by doxxing who were so deeply affected by their ordeal that, in at least two cases, they confessed they had thoughts of ending their lives.

The fact is that our laws need updating, and we cannot wait until another life is tragically lost before action is taken.

Ultimately, there's no debate about whether students deserve to be safe in their schools and on their campuses. Regardless of their political views, race, religion, ethnicity, or any other protected characteristic, they should not fear that a roommate, classmate, dissenter, or anonymous online stranger can maliciously expose their personal data, undermine their safety, and disrupt their lives with impunity.

In the spirit of Grace McComas's memory, and for all the students of diverse backgrounds who are suffering anguish and distress because our laws have failed to protect them from malicious harassment, CAIR respectfully urges a favorable report on SB 107.

Sincerely,

Zainab Chaudry, Pharm.D.
Director, CAIR Maryland
Council on American-Islamic Relations
zchaudry@cair.com

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Washington D.C.

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Texas Washington

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SB107 Testimony - Proton Docs.pdf

Uploaded by: Zyad Khan

Position: FAV

January 27, 2026
Chair William Smith, Jr.
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony In Support of SB107 Distribution of Students' Personal Information - Prohibition

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in strong support of *Senate Bill 107* which would prohibit the unauthorized distribution of students' personal identifying information with intent to harm or reckless disregard for harm.

I am speaking today from direct experience. Myself and other legislators at the University of Maryland, College Park Student Government called on our school to stop hosting war criminals from the Israeli Occupation Forces, a pattern that has repeated for decades on our campus. As a result, we were doxxed by our own peers, including our schools Students Supporting Israel Chapter. These speakers have no place on our campus, and we used our constitutionally protected rights to call for this change.

Because of this I was personally targeted at my workplace, a local Maryland business— which has contributed to our community in Carroll County— which was flooded with hateful and racist messages about me calling for my dismissal. This was not simply an online attack, but rather an coordinated effort to "punish" me for speaking out. I am not alone as four other student government representatives at UMD, all who are people of color, were also targeted. Some had no involvement in the resolution, proving the intent was not a debate but rather intimidation of minority voices in the SGA.

This bill is crucial because doxxing is not mere disagreement. We, the students, have the right to call out these abominations for what they are. Doxxing is a strategy used to silence students speaking out and has been weaponized as a psychological method to keep criticism away from this genocide. While Israel continues its assault on Gaza in violation of a supposed ceasefire, students who dare to criticize these atrocities are being silenced through fear such as doxxing.

It has been 3 months since the ceasefire was signed. This same ceasefire that has allowed israel and the IOF to kill over 470 Palestinians. This same ceasefire that has allowed the destruction of over 2,500 buildings in Gaza. This same ceasefire that has allowed israel from blocking humanitarian aid such as food, bottles for baby formula, and syringes for vaccines. We are told that this is a nation working for peace and an army that is the most moral in the entire world. This same moral occupation force that has continued to bomb Lebanon and build illegal expansions into Syria. This issue is far greater than it seems and has affected countless students across the entire state of Maryland.

Passing SB 107 sends a clear message: Maryland will protect its students' right to engage in democracy without facing targeted harassment that jeopardizes their education, employment, and personal security. Recognizing that doxxing is a deliberate strategy to suppress speech, this bill ensures that students are protected from intimidation. Stronger anti-doxxing laws means protecting democracy on our campuses. Passing this shows that Maryland ensures no student has to choose between speaking truth to power and protecting their own safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 107.

Sincerely,

Zyad Khan

SB107 Testimony - Proton Docs.pdf

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SB107 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Zyad Khan

Position: FAV

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2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

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Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 107.

Sincerely,

Zyad Khan

pdf_[MD] SB 107 student data privacy.pdf

Uploaded by: margaret durkin

Position: FWA

January 23, 2026

The Honorable Will Smith
Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland Senate
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 107 (Henson) - Criminal Law – Distribution of Students’ Personal Information – Prohibition – Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of TechNet, I’m writing to share comments on SB 107 pertaining to student data privacy.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet’s diverse membership includes 106 dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents five million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

Our member companies consistently place a high priority on consumer privacy, and the technology industry is committed to privacy and security. As part of that commitment, transparency and the responsible use of data are pillars of the tech sector.

In the context of protecting students’ data, liability should be solely on the natural person who is the bad actor violating the law. Further, we believe that any state law should align with federal exemptions contained in Section 230 of the federal code. As such, we’re requesting the following language be added to SB 107:

- **“As such terms are defined in 47 U.S.C. § 230, an interactive computer service is not liable for content provided by another person in violation of this act.”**

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments on SB 107 and please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Margaret Durkin

Margaret Durkin
TechNet Executive Director, Pennsylvania & the Mid-Atlantic

SB 107 written testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Lauren Dollar

Position: UNF



NATASHA DARTIGUE
PUBLIC DEFENDER

KEITH LOTRIDGE
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

HANNIBAL KEMERER
CHIEF OF STAFF

ELIZABETH HILLIARD
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

BILL: SB 107, Criminal Law – Distribution of Students’ Personal Information – Prohibition

FROM: Maryland Office of the Public Defender

POSITION: Unfavorable

DATE: January 23, 2026

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender respectfully requests that the Committee issue an unfavorable report on SB 107.

SB 107 seeks to protect children and students, while creating a law that could be used to prosecute those same children and students for protected speech and for routine conduct in the age of social media. This well-intentioned bill is written in a way that can be easily weaponized.

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender opposes the bill as the statute is currently drafted because it is overbroad and criminalizes too wide a swath of conduct. A simple amendment to Grace’s Law would achieve the purpose of expanding its protections to high school and college students.

As written, under SB 107, a person could be prosecuted for publishing a student’s name or uploading a student’s photo online, if someone *accuses* them of doing so to intentionally or recklessly cause the student harm, including emotional and economic harm.

The statute as currently drafted could result in the prosecution of children or students in the following scenarios because the conduct meets the *actus reus* requirement of the offense:

- A child who posts a photo of a friend on Instagram or Snapchat without the permission of the friend’s parent.
- A college student who posts online about a sexual assault experience and names her assailant, who is a fellow student at her school.

- A college student who posts online a negative review of a teacher’s assistant, who is also enrolled in the same school, using their name.

Imagine a scenario where a student is running for president of student government. The candidate openly encourages the establishment of whites-only student groups and argues that student associations based on national origins other than American should be prohibited. A fellow student posts a video on their personal social media page, using the candidate’s name and photo and comparing the student candidate’s positions to segregationists. This law would enable the student candidate to file *criminal charges* against the social media poster for intentionally or recklessly causing serious emotional distress. The use of the student government candidate’s name or photo alone would bring the complained conduct under the ambit of this statute, even if the poster had a viable defense to raise at trial.

While the statute has a *mens rea* requirement the State must prove at trial—that the person intended to cause harm or had a reckless disregard that they would—such a requirement does not prevent *prosecution*. And with citizen complaints in Maryland, the State’s Attorney’s Office is not a wholly protective factor (even if one believes that they would otherwise be, which is a jurisdiction-specific determination.)

See, Dylan Segelbaum, *Maryland lets anyone file for criminal charges— and innocent people pay the price*, The Baltimore Banner, December 23, 2025, available at: <https://www.thebanner.com/community/criminal-justice/maryland-district-court-commissioner-criminal-charges-BA2UCV6K75BKVPHPQCWVP7PIDQ/> (Last accessed January 23, 2026).

Prosecution, even when one has a viable defense, carries destructive collateral consequences. The trauma and embarrassment of an arrest, the fear of appearing in court, the impact on a student’s ability to attend class or work, the violence of detention centers, the cost of an attorney—all take a toll on someone accused of violating the law, even if they did not in fact break any law and even if their conduct has an affirmative defense available.

The desire to discourage or penalize doxxing is a valiant public policy goal. Keeping children and students safe always is. But exposing those same children and students to potential prosecution for a wide swath of innocent and constitutionally-protected conduct does not achieve that goal.

Should the General Assembly wish to expand Grace’s Law to protect secondary and post-secondary students, Md. Code, Crim. L. § 3-805 (“Grace’s Law”) could be expanded to apply to “secondary, post-secondary students, and minors” where the statute currently reads “minors.” Expanding protections to students does not require passing an additional overbroad bill that places people engaged in innocent and protected conduct at risk of prosecution—even initiated by abusers themselves.

For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges this Committee to issue an unfavorable report on SB 107.

**Submitted by: Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Government Relations Division.
Authored by: Lauren Dollar, Assistant Public Defender, lauren.dollar@maryland.gov.**

SB 107 Distribution of Students Personal Informati

Uploaded by: Beatrix Peck

Position: INFO



Letter of Information

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Bill 107 (Henson)
Criminal Law – Distribution of Students' Personal Information - Prohibitions

Matt Power, President
mpower@micua.org
January 27, 2026

The Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) appreciates the efforts of Senator Henson to address the serious issue of doxxing, which is a concern for all of our member campuses. Doxxing can have severe consequences for students, including physical harm, emotional distress, and economic damages.

MICUA supports the intent behind SB 107, which aims to prohibit the distribution of students' personal identifying information or images with the intent or knowledge that the information will be used to harm the student. However, we have some concerns regarding the bill's language and potential implications.

The definition of "distribute" in the bill is quite broad, encompassing a wide range of actions, including giving, selling, transferring, disseminating, publishing, uploading, circulating, broadcasting, and making available. While we understand the need to be comprehensive, we worry that some provisions in the bill may create potential conflicts between constitutionally protected free speech and the protection of student privacy. MICUA member institutions take great care to protect student privacy and adhere to federal and State laws governing the handling of student information. However, the bill's language should be refined to ensure that it does not infringe upon the rights of students, faculty, and staff to engage in free speech and academic expression.

Additionally, the penalties outlined in the bill, including imprisonment of up to 1 year or a fine of up to \$5,000 or both, may be excessive in marginal cases. We understand the need for consequences, but we believe that the penalties should be proportionate to the offense.

MICUA supports the intent behind SB 107 and appreciates the efforts to address the serious issue of doxxing. However, we believe that the bill's language should be refined to ensure that it is effective, constitutional, and proportionate. We look forward to working with the sponsor and Committee members to address our concerns and create a bill that protects students from harm while also respecting the rights of all individuals.