

MICHELE GUYTON  
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—  
Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation  
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 10, 2026

**Favorable**

HB 450 – Criminal Procedure – Protection of Identity of Victim of Sexual Assault of Stalking

**Dear Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,**

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of HB 450 which protects the privacy of sexual assault and stalking victims by redacting their names from easy access on public facing documents and kiosks. Two years ago, this body passed legislation that redacts the names of minors from public facing documents and this bill simply adds sexual assault victims of all ages and victims of stalking to those who are included in its privacy protections.

This committee is well aware of the stigma associated with sexual assault and the sensitive nature of this topic. The threat of being publicly named as a victim can discourage victims from reporting crimes of a sensitive nature and from pressing charges. In addition, publishing the private information of stalking victims may result in serious consequences.

Currently, the name of any adult victim is easily accessible to any member of the public and not only parties to the case. In fact, my staff and I spent a very long day at the Circuit Court in Towson and easily discovered the names and other identifying information of sexual assault victims from almost every jurisdiction in all charging documents and even requests for translation and other services that were included in the case files.

This legislation does not restrict any party to the case from having access to necessary information. It does protect victims and encourage reporting of sexual assault and stalking. I respectfully request a vote and favorable report on HB 450.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton, District 42B