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*February 17, 2026*

**TO:** The Honorable Sandy Bartlett  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee

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

**RE:** HB566– Criminal Law – Distribution of Students’ Personal Information –  
Prohibition - **Support**

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The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports HB566– Criminal Law – Distribution of Students’ Personal Information – Prohibition. HB566 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

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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. HB566 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 House Bill 566 a favorable report.