



Marjorie Cook Foundation
Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

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SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS SENATE BILL 134

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House of Ruth Maryland is a non-profit organization providing shelter, counseling, and legal representation to victims of domestic violence throughout the State. House of Ruth has offices in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County. Senate Bill 134 would require law enforcement officers to receive training on the criminal laws concerning stalking as they pertain to electronic surveillance and tracking. **The House of Ruth urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to amend SB 134 and issue a favorable report.**

Victims who are subjected to various forms of electronic stalking live in almost-constant fear, never knowing when, where or how an abuser might conceal a tracking or listening device and use it to follow, track or spy on their daily activities. These and other forms of electronic and technology-based surveillance are the most commonly used forms of stalking today. It is important that law enforcement officers and officials be versed in these methods of stalking and how to respond to victims who report these crimes.

House of Ruth supports this bill and proposes the following amendment: on page 2, line 10, place a period after "available to victims" and strike the remainder of line 10 and line 11. It is our understanding that documenting digital evidence is a specialized field and that only officers who work in this area need training on the subject.

The House of Ruth urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to amend SB 134 and report favorably.