

**R033-0506**

10     **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING**  
20     **PENALTIES FOR THE CRIME OF STALKING**

30     **WHEREAS:**     The current stalking laws in Maryland only call for a misdemeanor to be served as a 5  
40                     year sentence, a \$5000 fine, or both if found guilty; and,

50     **WHEREAS:**     1,006,970 women and 370,990 men are stalked annually in the United States. (National  
60                     Center for Victims of Crime); and,

70     **WHEREAS:**     Stalking is a violation of ones privacy and can lead to violent attacks such as rape and  
80                     even murder; and,

90     **WHEREAS:**     The act of stalking is very difficult to prove in a court of law unless it has already crossed  
100                    a line of breaking and entering, harassment, threats, or attack; and,

110    **WHEREAS:**     Once taken to that level, irreversible harm is already done to the victim of such attacks;  
120                    and,

130    **WHEREAS:**     the intent of Maryland's stalking law is to keep citizens safe from potential predators yet  
140                    currently it offers nothing more than a slap on the wrist and no long term protection to the  
150                    victim; and,

160    **WHEREAS:**     Other states such as Florida and Washington have taken past experience and have enacted  
170                    far stiffer penalties which have helped to dissipate the rate of violent crimes that come  
180                    from stalking; and,

190    **WHEREAS:**     Proactive deterrence through raising the penalties for stalking rather than waiting for the  
200                    crime to elevate will only act to deter more violent crimes,

210    **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland General  
220                    Assembly to adapt tougher policies, such as 10 year minimum sentence and a 50000  
230                    dollar fine if found guilty, along with a permanent mandatory restraining order of no less  
240                    than 300 feet and weekly counseling sessions upon the first year of release.

250    **MANDATES:**     Governor Robert Erlich  
260                    Lt. Governor Michael Steele  
270                    Delegate Joanne C. Benson

**SPONSOR:**

Rachel L. McMullin, University of Maryland, Baltimore County