

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
2334 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

June 21, 2023

The Honorable Anthony G. Brown
Maryland Attorney General
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Attorney General Brown,

We write to you regarding reports of a brutal attack on two senior citizens on May 26, 2023, outside of the Planned Parenthood's Baltimore City Center at 330 North Howard Street. Because these reports indicate the victims were likely targeted due to their religious beliefs, we urge you to investigate this assault as a potential hate crime.

According to reports, Dick Schafer, 80 years old, and Mark Crosby, 73 years old, stood on the public sidewalk before the Baltimore City Planned Parenthood Center peacefully praying and talking to passersby before they were attacked. The attack was reportedly unprovoked and resulted in severe injuries.

As you are aware, "hate crime" is defined in federal law as causing bodily injury "because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, or national origin of any person" (18 U.S. Code §249). Further, the 2022 Maryland Code prohibits the commission of a crime "motivated either in whole or in substantial part by another person's or group's race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, or national origin, or because another person or group is homeless" (MD Criminal Law Code § 10-304).

We urge you to investigate this assault as a potential hate crime.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Andy Harris, M.D.
First District, Maryland



Delegate Kathy Szeliga
Maryland District 7A



Delegate Lauren Arikan
Maryland District 7B