



Governor's Family Violence Council

100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

Jeanne Yeager
Chair

January 28, 2020

Chair Luke H. Clippinger, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee
Room 101, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HOUSE BILL 233 – Criminal Law – Assault in the First Degree – Suffocation or Strangulation
POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Governor's Family Violence Council supports House Bill 233, a bill that defines strangulation as a felony offense. Strangulation is an indicator of high lethality, and research has shown that it is a precursor to homicide, especially for women. Maryland is one of three states in the country without a felony strangulation law, and Maryland law should reflect the seriousness of the crime.

House Bill 233 aligns with the mission of the Governor's Family Violence Council which is to provide recommendations that will reduce and eliminate abusive behaviors.

For these reasons, the Governor's Family Violence Council urges a favorable report on House Bill 233.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeanne Yeager". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jeanne Yeager
Chair