



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

P.O. Box 8782
Silver Spring, MD 20907
Phone: 301-565-2277
Fax: 301-565-3619

For more information contact:
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire
443-995-5544
www.mcasa.org

Testimony Supporting House Bill 460
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
February 6, 2020

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI), a statewide legal services provider for survivors of sexual assault. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 460.

House Bill 460 – Child Abuse Identification, Prevention & Reporting

This bill requires that Maryland post an online, free course on child abuse identification, prevention and reporting. This is similar to what the District of Columbia has done with its mandated reporter training.

See here to access DC's training:

https://dc.mandatedreporter.org/pages/Overview.action?request_locale=en

Improving the State's response to child sexual abuse is critical:

1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse.

David Finkelhor, Director of the Crimes Against Children Research Center, victimsofcrime.org/media/reporting-on-child-sexual-abuse/child-sexual-abuse-statistics.

Access to no-cost, online training will help youth serving organizations have access to training and will encourage them to require volunteers and employees to participate. Parents, family members, and the public interested in learning how to stop abuse will also be able to easily increase their knowledge. The more people who know the signs of abuse and how to respond, the more children we will be able to protect.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges
the Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 460**