



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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Testimony Opposing House Bill 1248
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
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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 unfavorably on House Bill 1248.

House Bill 1248 – Voluntary Payment for Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (Rape Kits)

This bill would permit sexual assault survivors to voluntarily pay for rape kit analysis. This would create harmful discrepancies in access to justice as well as send a message that justice is available only for those who can afford it. The duty to pay for analysis necessary for criminal prosecution should fall on the government, not on an individual sexual assault survivor. This bill is also unnecessary given the bill enacted last session that requires testing of virtually all kits by the government. Crim.Pro.§11-926.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Judiciary Committee to
report unfavorably on House Bill 1248**