



**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 160  
**TITLE:** Human Services - Temporary Cash Assistance - Calculation of Benefits  
**COMMITTEE:** Finance  
**HEARING DATE:** February 2, 2023  
**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

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The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the Finance Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 160.**

With more than a third of domestic violence victims experiencing homelessness after leaving their abuser, the ability to access safe and affordable housing is paramount for victims and survivors of domestic violence. An inability to access safe and affordable housing is often an insurmountable barrier for a victim attempting to leave a domestic violence situation. Victims often remain in abusive relationships and children are exposed to ongoing violence because they have nowhere safe to go and are at risk of homelessness or housing instability.

Financial abuse occurs in 99% of domestic violence cases and is used by an abuser as a power and control tactic. The ability to establish financial independence and afford the numerous expenses needed to support themselves and children is a tremendous barrier for victims of domestic violence and a reason some do not leave their abuser.

Senate Bill 160 prohibits the reduction of the Temporary Cash Assistance benefit simply because a family lives in subsidized housing. Families should not be penalized for accessing multiple programs designed to support families in need.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB 160.**

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