



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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Testimony Supporting House Bill 164
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 favorably on House Bill 164.

House Bill 164

**Expansion of Mandatory Lifetime Supervision of Sex Offenders and
Definition of Crime of Violence in Criminal Law**

This bill expands the sex offenders subject to mandatory lifetime supervision by adding the age-based sex offenses in Criminal Law §3-306 (victim under 13 and offender over 18) and by expanding lifetime supervision to offenders convicted of sexual abuse of minor under §3-602 when the child was under the age of 16 and the offender was at least 21. Additionally, SB164 would expand the definition of a crime of violence under §14-101 of the criminal law article to include sexual abuse of a minor where the child is under the age of 16 and the offender was at least 21.

MCASA supports expanding lifetime supervision to these serious cases and appreciates that the sponsors included language to limit lifetime supervision to cases involving children under 16 in response to concerns raised previously about creating an overly broad requirement and the need to preserve resources and allocate funds for victim services. MCASA also supports the proposed changes to the definition of a crime of violence; *we note that the Committee may wish to consider parallel changes to the definition of a crime of violence found in the Public Safety Article §5-101.*

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Judiciary Committee to
report favorably on House Bill 164**