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**Working to end sexual violence in Maryland**

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**Testimony Supporting House Bill 274**  
**Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel**  
January 30, 2024

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 274.

**House Bill 274 – Wiretap – Change to Misdemeanor**

This bill would reclassify violation of the all party consent law for audio recordings from a felony to a misdemeanor.

This Committee has heard extensive testimony this session regarding the challenges faced when a victim of a violent crime, including a sex crime, records the crime in an attempt to document what occurred. HB274 is a modest step towards reducing the penalty for this type of action.

This bill passed the House of Delegates in 2023 in the same form.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the  
Judiciary Committee to  
report favorably on House Bill 274**