



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 Regarding House Bill 853
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
March 25, 2025

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.

House Bill 853
Crime Victim Participation in Proceedings Regarding Sentence Reduction
House Bill 853 creates a process for reduction of sentences after conviction.

MCASA appreciates the language in House Bill 853 to clarify victim participation and to create a presumption for a victim stay away order. If the Judicial Proceedings Committee chooses to move forward with this legislation, we urge the Committee to retain this language and emphasize the importance of victim rights. MCASA notes we continue have grave concerns about the impact of HB853 on victims and appreciate that cases involving registered sex offenders will not be eligible for the 2d Look process.