

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**

RE: SB217/HB123

February 13, 2020

The YWCA of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County is the comprehensive provider of domestic violence and sexual assault crisis intervention services in Anne Arundel County. These services include:

- Domestic Violence Safe House (Occupancy 32)
- Legal Representation in Peace and Protective Orders
- Licensed Therapy
- 24-Hour Crisis Hotlines
- Hospital Accompaniment
- Education, Financial Literacy and Job Skills Development
- Abuser Intervention Training
- Advocacy and Outreach

The YWCA has over 10,000 encounters annually and operates with a \$2.7M budget and 40 professional team members.

One of the **primary barriers we see in individuals leaving an abusive home is economic insecurity and inability to support themselves financially.**

The YWCA provides evidence-based education and job skills development training. Still, accessing jobs with a livable wage is paramount. Research tells us that women and minorities are offered lower wages/salary as compared to their Caucasian male counterparts. Over time, when wages are assessed based on historical income, the disparity compounds over time.

**The YWCA therefore supports SB217/HB123.**

I am happy to speak further regarding the experience of those leaving an abusive home and how this would directly aid in the safety of Marylanders.

Kind regards,



Molly Knipe  
CEO