



Governor's Family Violence Council

100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

Jeanne Yeager
Chair

January 28, 2020

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr., and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SENATE BILL 210 – Protective Orders – Relief Eligibility – Rape and Sexual Offenses
POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Governor's Family Violence Council supports Senate Bill 210, a bill that changes the definition of "person eligible for relief" in a protective order to include anyone who alleges s/he is a victim of a rape or sexual offense, clarifying that they are eligible to receive a protective order rather than a peace order.

Senate Bill 210 clarifies that victims of a rape or sexual offense are eligible for a protective order and provides this group of victims with the special protections of a protective order that are not included in peace orders such as removal of firearms, a longer order and a stronger response by law enforcement.

Senate Bill 210 aligns with the mission of the Governor's Family Violence Council which is to provide recommendations that will reduce and eliminate abusive behaviors.

For these reasons, the Governor's Family Violence Council urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 210.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeanne Yeager".

Jeanne Yeager
Chair