



## Governor's Family Violence Council

100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

Jeanne Yeager  
Chair

January 29, 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 212 – Criminal Law – Assault in the First Degree – Suffocation or Strangulation**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Governor's Family Violence Council supports Senate Bill 212, a bill that defines strangulation as a felony offense. Strangulation is an indicator of high lethality, and research has shown that it is a precursor to homicide, especially for women. Maryland is only one of three states in the country without a felony strangulation law, and Maryland law should reflect the seriousness of the crime.

Senate Bill 212 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 212.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Yeager  
Chair