



Senator William C. Smith  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 4, 2020

Dear Senator Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Greater Washington Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA) **strongly supports Senate Bill 227 to ensure that Protective Orders are extended once a motion for extension is filed.** At JCADA, our mission is to support victims of power-based violence to become empowered and live safely; educate the community about power-based violence and appropriate responses; and prevent future generations from suffering power-based violence. We provide these services without regard to race, national origin, ability, background, faith, gender, gender identity, gender expression, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, and the clients we serve are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, harassment, elder abuse and dating violence. Last year, JCADA supported over 580 survivors of power-based violence and educated more than 2,800 youth, parents and educators about healthy relationships through our prevention program *AWARE*.

At JCADA, we provide free legal, counseling, and victim advocacy services to victims and survivor. Our legal services are offered free of charge and include representation in protective orders and crime victims' rights. Our legal team routinely works with clients to help them extend their protective orders as needed. For many clients, having to return to court and see their abuser for an extension of the protective order can be very difficult. To have a protective order extended, unfortunately, the abuser must have committed a subsequent act of abuse or the abuser can consent. For victims where a hearing will be necessary to potentially extend the protective order because the abuser contests it, this hearing can be very traumatic. The last thing any victim should have to worry about is whether the matter gets scheduled appropriately so that the protective order can continue.

The way the law is written currently can create some confusion for victims and their attorneys. When the law isn't clear about the continuation of the order, this can cause questions for attorneys and those involved. This bill helps clarify the statute so that all parties have the same understanding of the protective order continuation.

Thank you for considering this testimony in support of SB 227. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [amanda@jcada.org](mailto:amanda@jcada.org).



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Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amanda Katz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the word "Katz".

Amanda Katz  
Executive Director