



# Governor's Family Violence Council

100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

Jeanne Yeager  
Chair

January 30, 2020

Chair Luke H. Clippinger, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee  
Room 101, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HOUSE BILL 248 – Protective Orders – Relief Eligibility – Rape and Sexual Offenses**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The Governor's Family Violence Council supports House Bill 248, 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.

House Bill 248 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.

House Bill 248 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 House Bill 248.

Sincerely,

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

Jeanne Yeager  
Chair