

# Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

5788 Endless Ocean Way, Columbia Maryland 21045

From: Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

To: Chair Luke Clippinger

Re: House Bill 590  
Criminal Law-Sexual Crimes- Repeal of Spousal Defense

Date: February 13, 2020

The Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. is in Favor of HB 590

We represent the Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition (Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness). We were established in 2000, our mission is "To create an atmosphere of understanding in dentistry and other professional communities which will result in the prevention of abuse and neglect through early identification and appropriate intervention for those who have been abused or neglected." Dentists and Dental Hygienists (Dental Professionals) are mandated by the State of Maryland to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect. Our coalition has established a Continuing Education (CE) course that educates Dental Professionals and other how to recognize, report, or refer. The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners has deemed this course as a mandatory CE requirement for Dentists and Hygienists to renew their licenses. We also address domestic violence, elder abuse and human trafficking in our CE course.

Marriage should never be an excuse for unacceptable behavior, it does not mean that a spouse has the right to do whatever they like without consent. No means no in any relationship. Once a spouse says no and rape or other sexual offenses take place, it should be considered a sexual offense with consequences.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 590 and be urge your support of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition  
Carol Caiazzo, RDH President  
Susan Camardese, RDH, MS, Vice President