



BILL NO: House Bill 130
TITLE: Commission on LGBTQ Affairs – Established
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
HEARING DATE: January 14, 2020
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the House Health and Government Operations Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 130.**

In a 2018 report of the Needs Assessment of LGBTQ Marylanders, domestic violence and sexual assault was among the five most serious issues of concern facing the LGBTQ community in Maryland.¹ As it relates to domestic violence and sexual assault, 38% of survey responders indicated that they or someone they know experienced discrimination due to their LGBTQ identity.² Domestic violence was a “pressing concern” for 14% of the survey respondents.³

Research shows that 43.8% of lesbian women and 61.1% of bisexual women have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime, as opposed to 35% of heterosexual women.⁴ Further, 26% of gay men and 37.3% of bisexual men have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime, in comparison to 29% of heterosexual men.⁵

The Commission that House Bill 130 seeks to establish will be able to collect critical data and develop best practices and implement policies that can identify and address the needs of Maryland’s LGBTQ community suffering domestic violence.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 130.**

¹ Agostini, Saida M. (2018). Pushing Back: A Blueprint for Change. Lessons Learned from the 2016 Needs Assessment of LGBTQ Marylanders.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Statistics*, The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Retrieved January 11, 2021 from <https://ncadv.org/blog/posts/domestic-violence-and-the-lgbtq-community>

⁵ *Id.*



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