

Maryland Psychological Association - Support - HB

Uploaded by: Brocato, Barbara

Position: FAV



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March 17, 2021

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Bill: HB0009- Family Law- Mandatory Reporter Training **Position: Support**

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Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Representative to APA Council

Katherine Killeen, PhD

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state, would like to offer its support for HB0009—which establishes a free online course for mandatory reporters on the identification and reporting of child abuse.

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Robyn Waxman, PhD

We are aware of the vulnerability of children, particularly during this time of increased stress, and the necessity of ensuring that mandatory reporters are well educated to help protect children. MPA members are mandatory reporters, and in recognition of this important responsibility our organization has long offered education on this topic to our membership. The laws and their requirements can be quite confusing and at times unclear. Providing a resource that is readily available and consistent for all mandatory reporters should further enhance the safety of children and families in Maryland.

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For these reasons, the Maryland Psychological Association supports the passing of H0009.

Legislative

Pat Savage, PhD

Please feel free to contact MPA's Executive Director Stefanie Reeves at exec@marylandpsychology.org if we can be of assistance.

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Sincerely,

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cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs

CSA training - online course - testimony - house i

Uploaded by: Jordan, Lisae C

Position: FAV



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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Testimony Supporting House Bill 9
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
March 17, 2021

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI), a statewide legal services provider for survivors of sexual assault. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on House Bill 9.

House Bill 9 – Child Abuse Identification, Prevention & Reporting

This bill requires that Maryland post an online, free course on child abuse identification, prevention and reporting. This is similar to what the District of Columbia has done with its mandated reporter training.

See here to access DC's training:

https://dc.mandatedreporter.org/pages/Overview.action?request_locale=en

Improving the State's response to child sexual abuse is critical:

1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse.

David Finkelhor, Director of the Crimes Against Children Research Center, [victimsofcrime.org/media/reporting-on-child-sexual-abuse/child-sexual-abuse-statistics](https://www.victimsofcrime.org/media/reporting-on-child-sexual-abuse/child-sexual-abuse-statistics).

Access to no-cost, online training will help youth serving organizations have access to training and will encourage them to require volunteers and employees to participate. Parents, family members, and the public interested in learning how to stop abuse will also be able to easily increase their knowledge. The COVID 19 crisis has made access to online training all the more important as children spend less in person time with teachers and other mandatory reporters. Sadly, the COVID crisis has also made it easier for perpetrators to hide abuse. The more people who know the signs of abuse and how to respond, the more children we will be able to protect.

This bill passed the House of Delegates 131-4 and had a unanimous Favorable vote in the House Judiciary Committee.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges
the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on House Bill 9**

Maryland Catholic Conference_FAV_HB09.pdf

Uploaded by: Kraska, Jenny

Position: FAV



March 17, 2021

House Bill 09

Family Law – Mandatory Reporter Training

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch)dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

House Bill 09 would require the Department of Human Services to post a free online course, concerning the identification, prevention, and reporting of child abuse, on its website. HB 09 is an important measure to help raise awareness in our communities about how to prevent abuse, to recognize the signs of a child who may be the victim of abuse, and importantly, how to properly report incidents of suspected or actual abuse. This bill would offer a promising opportunity to create safer environments for our children and our communities.

Like many other institutions serving children, all Catholic parishes, diocesan schools and youth programs observe stringent child protection measures. Our institutions conduct mandatory criminal background checks on all employees and on volunteers who work with children, provide comprehensive awareness training to educate adults and children on how to recognize predatory behaviors, and promptly report all suspected incidents of child sexual abuse.

It has been our experience that the required training provided to all professionals in our institutions has significantly increased our ability to protect children, and to immediately address instances of suspected abuse.

Having a free online course available on the Department of Human Services website concerning the identification, prevention and reporting of child abuse, would be a tremendous resource to those who don’t already have access to this type of instruction and coursework.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 09.

HB009 Center for Hope training link JPR.pdf

Uploaded by: Lombardi, Joyce

Position: FAV

A LIFEBRIDGE HEALTH GROUP

CENTER FOR HOPE

Advancing hope, healing and resilience



HB 009 – Family Law- Mandatory Reporter Training

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee – March 17, 2021

Testimony of Joyce Lombardi, Director of Government Relations and Legal Services, Center for Hope

Position: **SUPPORT**

The Center for Hope supports HB009. The Center for Hope, a subsidiary of Life Bridge, is a comprehensive violence program that addresses violence through the lifespan, and includes child advocacy, domestic violence programs, street violence interruption programs and an elder abuse program

This bill would require the Maryland Department of Human Services to post on its website a free voluntary online course on the identification, prevention, and reporting of child abuse. DHS's website currently has general information on reporting suspected child abuse or neglect. It does not explain the law in detail, nor is it interactive, nor linked to continuing education credit. See <http://dhs.maryland.gov/child-protective-services/reporting-suspected-child-abuse-or-neglect/signs-neglect-abuse/>

Training is key to preventing child abuse. Over 60 percent of reports of child abuse come from professionals who work with youth, like mental health, medical educational, police and human service workers, all of whom have a legal duty to report suspected abuse ("mandated reporters.") Mandated reporters need training. They need to help with, e.g. knowing the limits of corporal punishment, what to do if the abuse happened long ago, how to spot human trafficking and how much proof they need to act.

Several in-depth online free training already exist. The Baltimore Child Abuse Center, now a part of LifeBridge Health Center for Hope, for example, has a free course to train mandated reporters on how to identify, prevent and report child abuse in its Online Training Institute at its website. The site is updated to reflect changes in the law and we also serve as resources on mandatory reporting laws in all 50 states. The site is ReportAbuseMd.com and <https://training.reportabusemd.com/>



Maryland's Resource for
Mandated Reporters

The site was constructed with funding provided by Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention/Children's Justice Act Grant from 2014. Baltimore Child Abuse Center is authorized by the Board of Social Work Examiners in Maryland to sponsor social work

continuing education programs and this training qualifies for Category II continuing education units.

For all of the heretofore stated reasons, we request a **FAVORABLE** report for HB009.

Joyce Lombardi, Esq., Director of Government Relations and Legal Services
Center for Hope (443) 923-7005

Shetty_Senate_HB9.pdf

Uploaded by: Shetty, Emily

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Testimony in Support of HB9 - Family Law - Mandatory Reporter Training

Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and esteemed members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB9, which would require the Department of Human Services to make available online a free course on child abuse prevention, identification, and reporting. This bill passed the Judiciary Committee unanimously with 20 votes. The House voted for HB9 on a consent calendar with 131 yeas and 4 nays.

As many on this Committee are aware, mandatory reporters of child abuse include health care practitioners, police officers, educators, and human service workers who are acting in a professional capacity and who have reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect. Although these individuals must notify a law enforcement agency or local department of social services if they suspect abuse or neglect, only certain mandatory reporters are required by law to take trainings on how to identify, prevent, and report suspected abuse.

By providing a free, easily accessible certification course on DHS' website, we can ensure that all youth-serving individuals such as ballet and karate instructors, Sunday school teachers, preschool teachers, and others have the tools to identify the signs of abuse, and know how to prevent and report it to the appropriate entity. This is all the more important now, as we have seen such a troubling increase in domestic violence cases throughout the pandemic due to heightened stress from school closures, loss of income, and social isolation.

This bill is identical to a bill (HB460) that passed the House of Delegates unanimously last year, but was unable to be considered by this Committee before our early adjournment. I am grateful to DHS for their support of this effort, and to the many colleagues and advocates who supported its passage both this session and last.

I respectfully request a favorable report of HB9. Thank you.