



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

P.O. Box 8782
Silver Spring, MD 20907
Phone: 301-565-2277
Fax: 301-565-3619

For more information contact:
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire
443-995-5544
www.mcasa.org

Testimony Supporting House Bill 55
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
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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 which provides direct legal services for survivors across the State of Maryland. We urge the Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 55.

House Bill 55 – Charitable Immunity

This bill eliminates charitable immunity for liability for conduct involving certain sexual crimes and harassment. The charitable immunity statute is meant to balance the interests of victims of torts and those helped by charities. In cases involving sexual assault, the limits of the charitable immunity statute are too modest to reasonably respond to victims. House Bill 55 tips the scales of civil justice towards victims by repealing charitable immunity in these cases. This will also help encourage non-profit organizations, including schools, clubs, church groups, and other youth-serving organizations to take sexual assault and abuse seriously and engage in prevention activities.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Judiciary Committee to
report favorably on House Bill 55**