



BILL NO: House Bill 548
TITLE: Human Services - Trauma-Informed Care - Commission and Training
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
HEARING DATE: February 9, 2021
POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

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 amend and issue a favorable report on HB 548.**

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are known to have long-lasting and wide-ranging impact on those that have experienced one or more ACEs. One of the ten ACEs is whether a child observed their mother treated violently with 12.7% of participants in the original CDC-Kaiser Permanente Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study indicating they had experienced that trauma.¹ This does not include all the other types of domestic violence that may also occur in the home including psychological abuse, economic abuse, or verbal abuse. Exposure to any ACE increases the likelihood that a person may either become a victim or a perpetrator of intimate partner violence.² Children exposed to intimate partner violence often experience other ACEs, most notably child abuse.³

Understanding the power and control dynamics of domestic violence and the impact of exposure to domestic violence at a young age is imperative to help prevent intimate partner violence and victimization in those children exposed. MNADV thinks that in addition to the already identified members in HB 548 for the Commission on Trauma-Informed Care that the bill be **amended to include a representative from the State Domestic Violence Coalition** to ensure that the unique needs of children exposed to domestic violence and families experiencing domestic violence can be addressed.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report with amendment on HB 548.**

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/about.html>

² Franchek-Roa KM, Tiwari A, Connor AL, Campbell J. Impact of Childhood Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence and Other Adversities. J Korean Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry 2017;28:156-167. <https://doi.org/10.5765/jkacap.2017.28.3.156>

³ *Id.*