



**BILL NO:** House Bill 451  
**TITLE:** State Finance and Procurement – Grants – Prompt Payment Requirement  
**COMMITTEE:** Health and Government Operations  
**HEARING DATE:** February 15, 2022  
**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 451.**

Survivors of domestic violence in Maryland receive support and services through organizations, many of whom are the recipients of grants of state and federal funds. Non-profit organizations are generally those that receive these grants and operate with limited resources. The state and federal grant dollars are relied upon for salary, benefits, and operational expenses. These grants enable non-profit organizations to provide shelter, counseling, advocacy, legal services and hotlines to victims and survivors of domestic violence in Maryland.

The current structure for reimbursement is untenable for many non-profits, particularly smaller organizations in rural communities or those devoted to discrete underserved populations. They simply cannot front the money and carry the State of Maryland for the weeks and months it takes to get paid for work already performed.

The Governor's Office of Crime Control, Youth, and Victim Services and other state agencies require that grant recipients front funds to use for grant activities and then the state provides reimbursement. Some grants use a monthly reimbursement schedule and others require that a full quarter of expenditures be made prior to reimbursement. Grant reimbursements are to be made within 30 days, but they frequently take far longer. This means, as an example, that a domestic violence service provider would expend payroll and other expenses for 3 months (one quarter), and then wait another 4 or 5 or more weeks for reimbursement.

Maryland's non-profits have the same financial obligations as other small businesses including rent, payroll, health insurance for employees, and more. HB 451 would allow domestic violence non-profits to dedicate their attention to helping the victims and survivors they serve without worrying about their financial security and health.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 451.**

---

For further information contact Melanie Shapiro ■ Public Policy Director ■ 301-852-3930 ■ [mshapiro@mnadv.org](mailto:mshapiro@mnadv.org)

4601 Presidents Drive, Suite 300 ■ Lanham, MD 20706  
Tel: 301-429-3601 ■ E-mail: [info@mnadv.org](mailto:info@mnadv.org) ■ Website: [www.mnadv.org](http://www.mnadv.org)