



# ANTHONY B. COVINGTON

State's Attorney for Charles County

January 28, 2022

Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Miller Senate Office Building,  
2 East Wing 11 Bladen St.,  
Annapolis, MD 21401 – 1991

Re: Favorable Report for Senate Bill 33; Repeal of Spousal Defense

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

A marriage license is not a bill of sale, a deed or any other document that indicates ownership over a spouse. One spouse does not lose their autonomy over their own body merely because they're married. Maryland's spousal defense, however, seems to indicate otherwise and grants one spouse the ability to sexually assault their spouse without legal repercussions. No other relationship in Maryland is afforded the right to sexually assault a loved one without legal repercussions, not a parent, a boyfriend, a girlfriend nor any other family member.

The spousal defense harkens back to a past where a wife was deemed property and should not exist in the Maryland of today. I urge a favorable return of this bill.

Thank you,

*K.A. Marsh*

Kathryn A. Marsh

Special Victims Liaison, Assistant State's  
Attorney