

Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

5788 Endless Ocean Way, Columbia Maryland 21045

From: Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition

To: Chair Smith

Re: SB 33 Criminal Law-Sexual Crimes- Repeal of Spousal Defense

Date: February 1, 2022

The Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. is in Favor of SB 33.

We represent the Mid Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition (Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness). We were established in 2000, our mission is "To create an atmosphere of understanding in dentistry and other professional communities which will result in the prevention of abuse and neglect through early identification and appropriate intervention for those who have been abused or neglected." Dentists and Dental Hygienists (Dental Professionals) are mandated by the State of Maryland to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect. Our coalition has established a Continuing Education (CE) course that educates Dental Professionals and others on how to recognize, report, or refer. The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners has deemed this course as a mandatory CE requirement for Dentists and Hygienists to renew their licenses. We also address domestic violence, elder abuse, human trafficking and bullying in our CE course.

Marriage should never be an excuse for unacceptable behavior, it does not mean that a spouse has the right to do whatever they like without consent. No means no in any relationship. Once a spouse says no and rape or other sexual offenses take place, it should be considered a sexual offense with consequences even if the person is your spouse at the time of the offense.

Thank you for your consideration of SB33 and be urge your support of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Mid-Atlantic P.A.N.D.A. Coalition
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