

# **GOCPYVS executive director - testimony - senate -**

Uploaded by: Lisae C Jordan

Position: FAV



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**Working to end sexual violence in Maryland**

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**Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 819**  
**Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel**  
March 1, 2022

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 (SALI), a statewide legal services provider for survivors of sexual assault. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 819.

**Senate Bill 819 – Senate Confirmation for Executive Director of GOCPYVS**

This bill would require senate confirmation for the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth & Victim Services (GOCPYVS).

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth & Victim Services (GOCPYVS), formerly known as the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP), administers the majority of grants that support services for survivors of sexual assault in Maryland. This includes both state and federal funding. Examples include federal funds under the Violence Against Women Act, the Victims of Crime Act, and the Sexual Assault Services Program (under the Violence Against Women Act), and state funds such as Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis (SARC) formula funding, Maryland Victim of Crime Act, and the Legal Services for Crime Victims program.

Programs supported by these grants range from certified rape crisis centers, to child advocacy centers, to programs addressing particular populations, such as those serving sex trafficking survivors or survivors of child sexual abuse. Child advocacy centers, programs critical to child-centered and trauma informed investigations of child sexual abuse also receive support from GOCPYVS.

GOCPYVS has grown from a small advisory group in the Governor's office to a large and ever growing agency. It has resisted legislative oversight, failing to file mandated reports and refusing financial audit directives. The Maryland General Assembly directed an [evaluation of GOCPYVS](#) on April 28, 2021 in response to ongoing concerns.

The evaluation made several recommendations including that the Maryland General Assembly consider requiring that future GOCPYVS executive directors be appointed with advice and consent of the Senate. DLS pointed to GOCPYVS' budget size, its critical role in allocating and monitoring grants across the State, and its organizational complexity. It noted that the GOCPYVS budget is larger than 9 of Maryland's 20 principal departments, and its total staff size exceeds 2 of the principal departments.

MCASA concurs with this recommendation and views it as one important step to repairing a broken agency that is critical to victim services provisions in Maryland.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges  
the Judicial Proceedings Committee to  
report favorably on Senate Bill 819**

**SB 819\_MNADV\_FAV.pdf**

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Position: FAV



**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 819  
**TITLE:** Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services - Executive Director – Appointment  
**COMMITTEE:** Judicial Proceedings  
**HEARING DATE:** March 1, 2022  
**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

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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 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 819.**

Senate Bill 819 would require senate confirmation of the Governor’s appointment for the Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth & Victim Services (GOCPYVS). Previously known as the Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP), this agency is relied upon to administer many grants that support services for survivors of domestic violence in Maryland. This includes both state and federal funding. Programs that rely on GOCPYVS to administer these grant dollars provide lifesaving services include emergency shelter, 24-hour hotlines, advocates, legal services, and counseling services.

GOCPYVS has grown from a small advisory group in the Governor’s office to a large and continuously growing agency. It has resisted legislative oversight, failed to file mandated reports, and refused financial audit directives. The Maryland General Assembly directed an [evaluation of GOCPYVS](#) on April 28, 2021, in response to ongoing concerns. The evaluation made several recommendations including that the Maryland General Assembly consider requiring that future GOCPYVS executive directors be appointed with advice and consent of the Senate. The report pointed to GOCPYVS’ budget size, its critical role in allocating and monitoring grants across the State, and its organizational complexity. It noted that the GOCPYVS budget is larger than 9 of Maryland’s 20 principal departments, and its total staff size exceeds 2 of the principal departments.

Requiring senate confirmation of the Governor’s appointment for the Executive Director of GOCPYVS is part of a critical checks and balances system that our state, its citizens, victims, and victim services programs depend upon. Due to the lack of transparency and accountability within GOCPYVS combined with their seminal role in administering grant dollars that domestic violence programs depend on, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB 819.**

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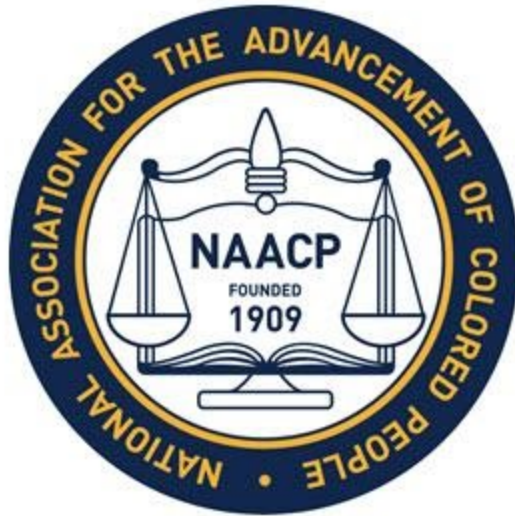
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# **SB819.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ryan Coleman

Position: FAV



# Randallstown

**Po Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133**

February 28, 2022

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

*RE: SUPPORT SB 819-Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services –  
Executive Director – Appointment*

Dear Chair Smith:

May it be known the mission of the Randallstown NAACP is to secure equal rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and wellbeing of all persons in Baltimore County and the State of Maryland.

**The Randallstown Branch of the NAACP urges a favorable report from the committee on SB 819.**

*yours,*

Ryan Coleman  
President, Randallstown NAACP  
<http://randallstownnaacp.yolasite.com>





**SB819\_Hettleman\_FAV .pdf**

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV

SHELLY HETTLEMAN  
Legislative District 11  
Baltimore County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on Children, Youth,  
and Families

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake  
and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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## *The Senate of Maryland* ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

### TESTIMONY OF SENATOR SHELLY HETTLEMAN SB 819-Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services – Executive Director – Appointment

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services' stated vision is to "plan, promote, and fund efforts with government entities, private organizations, and the community to advance public policy, enhance public safety, reduce crime and juvenile delinquency, and serve victims."<sup>1</sup>

The budget for the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS), and its historical components, has grown by over a third since fiscal 2017, making it larger than nine of Maryland's principal departments. The budget is over \$200 million per year, over 95% of which is distributed as grants.

The Office of Performance Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA), an entity created by the General Assembly in 2019 with the purpose of examining certain government functions, recently issued a more than 200-page analysis of the "efficiency, effectiveness and economy" of the department and made a series of recommendations. One of the recommendations was that the next Director of the office is confirmed with the advice and consent of the Senate. That is all that SB819 does - require the appointment of the next GOCPYVS Director to be confirmed by the Senate.

According to the OPEGA report, "the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services' (GOCPYVS) core functions and policy areas have grown in recent years. GOCPYVS has expanded from an office mainly administering grants into a larger multidisciplinary team covering several functions and policy areas. GOCPYVS now encompasses the prior Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP), the prior Governor's Office for Children (GOC), and a Victim Services Unit."

GOCPYVS' focus is on criminal justice and law enforcement; children and youth; and victim services. They are supposed to: develop a comprehensive crime plan; advise the Governor; coordinate resources between state and local government; administer grants, including state grants, as well as act as a pass-through for federal grants; and analyze crime data.

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<sup>1</sup> "About Us." 2015. Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. May 18, 2015. <http://gocep.maryland.gov/about/>.

There have been particular challenges for GOCPYVS: presenting information that is requested by this body; submitting reports in a timely manner; creating a Crime Plan that details measurable goals and objectives; making information available to the public in a user-friendly manner, and communicating grant application procedures and award determinations.

At a time when public safety is of utmost importance to the General Assembly and the public at large and in light of the tremendous growth and change the department has experienced over the past number of years, providing the Senate with the opportunity to exercise its role of advice and consent will help to ensure that GOCPYVS' leadership has the requisite skills to address the program's challenges going forward.