

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL HB0153 - FAVORABLE
Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Alan Libbee
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Maryland's spousal defense in sexual assault law is unacceptable. We must change this law to protect all persons in abusive relationships who are married. As a father of two and a lifelong Maryland resident, I am asking you to please not allow these abusive marital partners to continue without legal consequence.

As the law is currently written, there is little to no protection for spouses experiencing sexual assault from their husband/wife while they are incapacitated or unconscious. As I am sure you are aware, most sexual assaults go unreported. In this case, even if an assault were to be reported, the spousal defense would allow the offender an out. Choosing to get married should not make a person defenseless against sexual assault, this needs to change.

I respectfully request the committee to issue a favorable report this year. Thank you for your time and continued service to our state.