



**Working to end sexual violence in Maryland**

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**Testimony Supporting House Bill 148**  
**Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel**  
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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 Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 148.

**House Bill 148 – Stalking by Electronic Tracking Devices**

House Bill 148 expands the definition of stalking to include use of a device that can pinpoint or track the location of another without the person's knowledge or consent.

Stalking of the victim by the offender is a frequent precursor of the sexual assault.

Roger, Laura, *Many Sexual Assaults Follow Stalking*, United States Department of Justice Archives (webpage), January 12, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/archives/ovw/blog/many-sexual-assaults-follow-stalking>

Stalking is also common. About 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men have experienced stalking in their lifetimes. <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/features/prevent-stalking/index.html>.

In 2018, 10% of stalking victims reported being monitored with global positioning systems (GPS), and 8% report being monitored through video or digital cameras or listening devices. Stalking Fact Sheet (n.d.). SPARC. Retrieved October 26, 2021, from [https://www.stalkingawareness.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SPARC\\_StalkingFactSheet\\_2018\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.stalkingawareness.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SPARC_StalkingFactSheet_2018_FINAL.pdf)

Since then, tracking technology has improved, providing stalkers with easy tools to use to find their victims and their whereabouts. Devices like Apple's AirTags are described as a "stalker's dream". <https://www.westernjournal.com/apples-new-airtags-stalkers-dream/>

**Sex offenders frequently stalk their victims before and after assaults. HB148 is a needed modernization of Maryland's stalking law.**

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the  
Judiciary Committee to  
report favorably on House Bill 148**