



Working to end sexual violence

in Maryland

P.O. Box 8782
Silver Spring, MD 20907
Phone: 301-565-2277
Fax: 301-565-3619

For more information contact:
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire
443-995-5544
www.mcasa.org

Testimony Supporting House Bill 549
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 549.

House Bill 549 – Increased Awards of Criminal Injuries Compensation Funds (CICF)

This bill would institute long-overdue increases in the maximum awards for psychiatric, psychological, or mental health counseling for victims of crime through the criminal injuries compensation fund. It also prevents the Board from setting lower caps than those in statute. The estimated average cost for mental health needs as a result of rape is \$77,665 for women and \$78,861 for men.¹ Current caps on awards are grossly inadequate for the years of counseling and mental health treatment that many rape and sexual abuse survivors need to heal from their trauma.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Judiciary Committee to
report favorably on House Bill 549**

¹ See, [The Cost of Rape | National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#); and [Lifetime Economic Burden of Rape Among U.S. Adults \(ajpmonline.org\)](#)