



Bill No: HB296
Title: Interim and Temporary Protective Orders - Electronic Filing and Video Conferencing Hearings
Committee: Judiciary
Hearing: February 3, 2022
Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW's purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **HB296 - Interim and Temporary Protective Orders - Electronic Filing and Video Conferencing** is a priority on the 2022 MLAW Agenda and we urge your support.

HB296 would allow victims of abuse who are eligible to request interim and/or temporary protective orders to do so virtually in a hospital or urgent care setting. Currently, if a victim is in those facilities due to a violence incident, they cannot leave the hospital protected from their abuser. Further, victims who are in a hospital or urgent care setting for other medical reasons, who trust their medical professional and feel safe in those settings to disclose their abuse, cannot receive a protective order before leaving. This legislation applies to everyone eligible for protective orders including, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and vulnerable elder adults.

Currently, victims of abuse, including domestic violence and sexual assault, cannot obtain protective orders from their abusers in a hospital or urgent care setting, thus, leaving the facility unprotected. This bill would allow all eligible victims of abuse the ability to apply virtually for temporary or interim protective orders in those settings.

For these reasons, MLAW strongly urges the passage of HB296.



MLAW 2022 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2022 Legislative Agenda:

Allegany County Women's Action Coalition
American Association of University Women Maryland
American Association of University Women Anne Arundel County
American Association of University Women Garrett Branch
Anne Arundel County NOW
Baltimore County Commission for Women
Baltimore Jewish Council
Baltimore NOW (National Organization for Women)
Business and Professional Women of Maryland
For All Seasons, Inc.
Forward Justice Maryland
Make A Difference Monday
Maryland Business & Professional Women
Maryland National Organization for Women
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
MD Women's Heritage Center (MWHC)
MoCoWoMen
Montgomery County Commission for Women
Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club
Montgomery County Chapter, National Organization for Women
National Coalition For Sexual Freedom
National Organization for Women
NCBW Anne Arundel County Chapter
Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter
Reproductive Justice Inside
South Prince George's Business and Professional Women
Women's Equality Day Celebration Across Maryland
Women's Law Center of Maryland
Yellow Rose Foundation
Zonta Club Mid Maryland