



BILL NO: House Bill 121
TITLE: Juvenile Court Jurisdiction - Peace Orders - Repeal
COMMITTEE: Judiciary
HEARING DATE: January 27, 2022
POSITION: **FAVORABLE ONLY WITH AMENDMENTS**

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 House Judiciary Committee to issue a Favorable only as Amended report on HB 121.**

Under the current peace and protective order processes, when there is a juvenile respondent, the petitioner goes to the juvenile court in the county in which the acts occurred and initiates the peace order process with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). The case is reviewed by an intake officer for DJS and then DJS is empowered to decide if a peace order petition should be forwarded to the court or if the petition can be denied.

Juvenile respondents are not subject to district court jurisdiction on peace orders and circuit court does not have jurisdiction over peace order petitions. Therefore, as drafted, HB 121 would repeal the peace order process for juvenile respondents without any alternative for victims. A repeal will leave many young victims without any peace or protective order remedies.

MNADV supports the sponsor amendment that would remove the peace order process repeal and require data be collected to better understand the weaknesses and flaws in the current peace order process for juvenile respondents. MNADV believes that a greater understanding of the peace order process would benefit all parties involved.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report only as amended on HB 121.**