



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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Information on House Bill 754 **Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel** February 17, 2022

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.

House Bill 754 – Sentencing Minors Who are Victims of Sex Trafficking or Sex Crimes

This bill creates a presumption that a minor who is convicted as an adult and has been a victim of sex trafficking or a sexual crime under subtitle 3 of Title 3 of the Criminal Law Article in the past year may be sentenced in juvenile court. MCASA respectfully suggests that minors who are victims of §3-602, sexual abuse of a minor, or of §3-709, sextortion, be added to those who would benefit from the law if the Committee chooses to move forward on the bill. MCASA notes that bill has many strong provisions, however, we decline to take a position in deference to the many Juvenile Justice Reform bills that are being considered and concern that this bill may need substantial revisions based on which reform bills are enacted.