



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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Testimony Supporting House Bill 1356
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) which provides direct legal services for survivors across Maryland. We urge the Ways & Means Committee to report favorably on House Bill 1356 with Amendments.

House Bill 1356 – Reporting of Sexual Misconduct, Harassment and Stalking

This bill requires reporting of harassment, sexual misconduct, and stalking.

As of August 30, 2019, 56.4% of schools (elementary-secondary and post-secondary) under investigation by the Office for Civil Rights for Title IX Sexual Harassment violations are K-12 schools. Additionally, 32.5% of schools (elementary-secondary and post-secondary) under investigation by the Officer for Civil Rights for Title IX Sexual Violence violations are K-12 schools.

Sexual harassment and sexual violence violations persist in the K-12 context in part because the procedures and policies currently implemented in schools are failing students. House Bill 1356 would help increase transparency and ensure that students' caretakers are aware of incidents.

As with HB472 heard earlier this session, MCASA expresses concern about how information is shared and respectfully suggests that HB1356 be amended to include:

"IF THERE IS SIGNIFICANT RISK OF HARM TO THE STUDENT FROM NOTIFYING A PARENT OF A COMPLAINT RELATED TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, THE SCHOOL MAY PROVIDE NOTIFICATION TO ANOTHER RESPONSIBLE PROFESSIONAL OR ADULT TO FACILITATE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT;"

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Ways & Means Committee to
report favorably on House Bill 1356 with Amendments**