

January 31, 2023

Testimony on House Bill 186
Victim Services Programs - Supplementing Federal Funding and Support (Victim Services Stabilization Act)
House Appropriations Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1400 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We strongly urge you to support House Bill 186 – to assure stable funding and support of trauma-informed, high-quality program and services for victims of crime.

HB 186 does not meet every need of every victim of crime, but it is important structural improvement that provides for essential core services and shows that Maryland is committed to and mean that the state of Maryland is committed to helping and creating a strong and equitable safety net across the state.

The bill establishes a structure and process for the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to consult with stakeholders, including the program service provider networks and governmental partners such as the State’s Attorneys offices, in the allocation of funds and program needs.

While not eliminating all of the trauma and other challenges that survivors and victims of crime or abuse continue to face, House Bill 186 will help by ensuring that the State of Maryland works more collaboratively with the programs and governmental entities providing support and assistance to them, and by stabilizing funding when federal funding becomes erratic or threatened in the future.

For these reasons, we urge you to give House Bill 186 a favorable report.