



Working to end sexual violence in

Maryland

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Testimony Supporting House Bill 630
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), 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 in the State of Maryland. We urge the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to report favorably on House Bill 630.

HB630 – Public Utilities - Primary and Secondary Account Holders - Domestic Violence

House Bill 630 will enable a victim of domestic violence to remove themselves from a shared utilities account or contract. This can enhance the possibility that they can separate from their abuser and establish a safe life elsewhere.

Sexual assault is often part of domestic violence. 33% of rapes are perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner.¹ 40% to 45% of individuals in an abusive relationship will also be sexually assaulted by their partner.² Ending domestic violence and helping survivors create safety is an important part of ending sexual violence. House Bill 630 would create a practical tool to help support survivors.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges
the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to
report favorably on House Bill 630**

¹ Tjaden, P., & Thoennes, N. (2000, November). Full report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women.

² Tjaden, P., & Thoennes, N. (2000, July). Extent, nature, and consequences of intimate partner violence.