



BILL NO: Senate Bill 797
TITLE: Task Force on Preventing and Countering Elder Abuse
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE: February 23, 2023
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

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 Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 797.**

Senate Bill 797 would create the Task Force on Preventing and Countering Elder Abuse. The Task Force would study existing laws, policies, and practices relating to elder abuse and other crimes commonly committed against older adults and then make recommendations for possible changes needed to state law or policy.

Domestic violence intersects with numerous areas of the law, including elder abuse with abusers using similar power and control dynamics such as isolation and financial abuse in addition to physical violence. While not all domestic violence is elder abuse, the individual committing elder abuse may be the spouse or partner of the victim. Elder abuse and domestic violence are normally considered in silos, however protective order relief is available for both categories of victims. The Task Force that SB 797 would create would review Maryland's laws and responses, identify intersections, and make recommendations that would benefit victims of elder abuse who may also be victims of domestic violence.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB 797.**