



BILL NO: Senate Bill 209
TITLE: Task Force to Study Crime Classification and Penalties
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE: February 14, 2023
POSITION: **Favorable with Amendments**

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 with amendments on SB 209.**

MNADV would request that the bill be amended to include “The Executive Director of the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, or their designee.”

Senate Bill 209 would establish the Task Force to Study Crime Classification and Penalties to review the penalties for all criminal and civil violations in the Maryland Code, study the history and legislative intent of the classifications, study criminal classifications and penalty schemes in other states, and make recommendations regarding the current statutory scheme for criminal and civil violation in the State.

Notably missing from the composition of members of the Task Force are members and representatives of the victim community. MNADV believes that it is imperative that any group or Task Force working and studying crime classification and penalties include representation from the communities directly impacted by those crimes. MNADV is the federally recognized state domestic violence coalition and represents the nineteen comprehensive domestic violence programs in Maryland. Together these programs provide emergency shelter, 24-hour hotlines, counseling, advocacy and legal services to victims and survivors of domestic violence as well as abuse intervention services to those who have committed violence. The programs we represent offer services to those that are victims of domestic violence, those who have committed domestic violence, and victims that are criminalized. It is crucial that these voices are at the table during a study of crime classifications and penalties.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report with amendments on SB 209.**

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