



BILL NO: Senate Bill 949
TITLE: Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Victims of Nonfatal Strangulation
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE: March 21, 2023
POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

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 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 949.**

Senate Bill 949 would require that non-fatal strangulation forensic examination expenses be paid for through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Strangulation is an indicator of lethality in domestic violence. Survivors of strangulation are 750% more likely to become a victim of domestic violence homicide.

After a strangulation attempt there are numerous medical risks that must be evaluated by a medical provider since most are invisible injuries including damage to the interior neck anatomy, lack of oxygenation, and an increased risk for strokes that can last for months after the assault.¹ Every survivor of a strangulation should seek medical attention due to the many and possible fatal consequences. The ability to pay for that evaluation should not be a barrier to treatment and that is what SB 949 addresses.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB 949.**

¹ <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/the-dangers-of-strangulation/>