



Working to end sexual violence in

Maryland

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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 487
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
March 9, 2023

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 Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 487.

SB487 – Pre- and Post-Trial Conditions of Release from Jail

Current law provides for criminal enforcement of violations of pre- and post-trial conditions of release when the condition involves prohibiting the person from contacting, harassing, or abusing an alleged victim or going in or near an alleged victim's residence or place of employment. This expands application of the law to persons who are incarcerated, so not technically "released".

A critical piece of protecting survivors of child sexual abuse, sexual assault, and other crimes is to order the defendant to refrain from contact with the victim. Some defendants have violated these types of conditions by contacting victims while they were still in jail, not yet released. Defendants should adhere to conditions of pre- and post-trial release whether they are in jail or in the community. Senate Bill 487 closes a loophole in the current law and will help victims of sexual abuse and assault.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges
the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 487**