

House Judiciary Committee

House Bill 412 – Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Consent and Second-Degree Rape Written Support

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February 21, 2023
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In my capacity at Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU), I serve as the University's Sexual Violence Resource Coordinator. NDMU is committed to maintaining a campus environment that is free from sexual harassment and violence. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of [House Bill 412 – Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Consent and Second-Degree Rape Written Support](#). The bill would change Maryland's rape law to focus on whether there is clear and voluntary agreement between the people involved.

The definition of consent proposed includes:

- Clear and voluntary agreement
- The right to withdraw consent
- Communication through words or conduct

Consent is not:

- what someone is wearing,
- prior relationship, or
- as a result of fear, threat, or coercion

I am appalled that Maryland law requires more than lack of consent to prove rape. I strongly disagree with the current law. People should never have sex with someone without their consent.

I urge the Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 412.