



BILL NO: House Bill 600
TITLE: Task Force on Preventing and Responding to Nonconsensual Sexual Imagery
COMMITTEE: Judiciary Committee
HEARING DATE: February 16, 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 Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report with amendments on HB 600.**

MNADV would request that the bill be amended to include “The Executive Director of the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, or the Executive Director’s designee” and “one representative of a legal services program or agency that works primarily to represent domestic violence victims.”

House Bill 600 would establish the Task Force on Preventing and Responding to Nonconsensual Sexual Imagery to evaluate how to prevent and respond to nonconsensual sexual imagery while respecting First Amendment rights, including evaluating prevention and response to cyberflashing, deep fakes, and other forms of misuse of technology to create or disseminate sexual images without the consent of everyone depicted in the images or receiving the images.

Unfortunately, victims of domestic violence often find themselves victims of the nonconsensual sharing of sexual images by a current or former intimate partner.¹ MNADV believes that it is imperative that any group or Task Force evaluating how best to respond to these offenses 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 the

¹ <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/vengeance-porn/>



offenses this Task Force will evaluate. It is crucial that these voices are at the table during this study.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence** urges a **favorable report with amendments on HB 600.**

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