

Testimony Supporting House Bill 412

Paris Newlin

February 17th, 2023

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Paris Newlin, I live in Elkton, Maryland and I'm currently a freshman attending Cecil College.

House Bill 412 would change Maryland's rape law from focusing on the survivor/victim and whether they resist, to focusing on whether there is a clear and voluntary agreement between the people involved. House Bill 412 also provides a definition of what is and is not consent.

As a young woman living in Maryland with five sisters I was appalled to learn that Maryland's law requires more than lack of consent to prove rape. It's no secret that women account for an unproportionate percentage of sexual assault victims and I believe it's important for our law to accurately define what constitutes as rape.

I urge you to support House Bill 412 because consent includes voluntary agreement and Maryland's rape law should too. Thank you for your consideration.

Paris Newlin

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