



**Working to end sexual violence in Maryland**

P.O. Box 8782  
Silver Spring, MD 20907  
Phone: 301-565-2277  
Fax: 301-565-3619

For more information contact:  
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire  
443-995-5544  
mcasa.org

**Testimony Opposing House Bill 65**  
**Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel**  
March 13, 2024

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. We urge the Health & Government Operations Committee to report unfavorably on House Bill 65.

**House Bill 65 – Parental Notice about Counseling**

House Bill 65 would require clinical staff at schools to report to parents when a student seeks their help through consultation, diagnosis, and treatment. MCASA strongly objects to this legislation. Many students are uncomfortable approaching their parents to talk about sexual abuse, boundary violations, and relationships. Some of these students have been abused by their parents or other family or household members. Providing these students with the ability to seek help without involving their parents leads to more support and more resources for these students. Current law allows minors to seek services and permits clinicians to inform parents in appropriate cases. Health General §20-104. Requiring notice to parents will discourage some students from reaching out when they need help.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the  
Health & Government Operations Committee to report unfavorably on House Bill 65**