



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
www.mcasa.org

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 379 with Sponsor Amendment
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
February 1, 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 Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 379 with Sponsor Amendment.

Senate Bill 379 -- Task Force to Study Crime Classification

This bill would create a Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding the penalties for crimes and civil offenses under State law, the potential need for reclassification of certain crimes, the alteration of penalties, and whether certain changes should be made to crimes, including sex crimes.

It is critical that the Task Force working and studying crime classification and penalties include representation from the communities directly impacted by those crimes. MCASA is the federally recognized state sexual assault coalition and very much appreciates the sponsor amendment to add MCASA to the proposed Task Force, as such:

On line 7, following [and]" insert **"THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;"**

There are significant crime classification issues in the code relating to sex crimes, ranging from how to classify age based crimes, to whether sextortion should be in the sex crimes subtitle. MCASA has significant expertise in the impact of potential changes on survivors.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Judicial Proceedings Committee to
report favorably on Senate Bill 379 with Sponsor Amendment**