



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 753
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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 753.

Senate Bill 753 - Notifying Victims When Abusers Attempt to Purchase Firearms

Senate Bill 753 would require the Maryland State Police to notify local law enforcement when an individual, who is a "prohibited person" (someone not allowed to have guns), tries to legally purchase a firearm and is denied. The bill would also require that the victim in a final order of protection or violation of an order of protection be notified if the Respondent tried to legally purchase a firearm and is denied regardless of whether the background check was conducted by Maryland State Police or the FBI/NICS.

Ensuring that a victim knows that their abuser attempted to legally purchase a firearm offers an invaluable opportunity for them to take safety measures that could potentially save their life. It is imperative that there be statutory reporting requirements and a process in place in Maryland for when a prohibited person attempts to lawfully purchase a firearm and fails a background check.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Judicial Proceedings Committee to
report favorably on Senate Bill 753**