



Bill No: HB482  
Title: Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Victims of Nonfatal Strangulation  
Committee: Judicial Proceedings  
Hearing: February 6, 2024  
Position: SUPPORT

---

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women’s groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW’s purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. **HB482 - Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Victims of Nonfatal Strangulation** is a priority on the [2024 MLAW Agenda](#) and we urge your support.

HB482 would require that non-fatal strangulation forensic examination expenses be paid for through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Current law requires the reimbursement for forensic examinations and other eligible expenses including emergency medical treatment and follow-up care for injuries resulting from an alleged rape, sexual assault, or child sexual abuse. Existing law does not require the reimbursement for forensic examinations, emergency medical care, or other eligible expenses for survivors of nonfatal strangulation that did not result from an alleged rape, sexual offense, or sexual abuse. The ability to pay for a forensic evaluation or medical treatment should not be a deterrent for a survivor of a non-fatal strangulation if seeking medical care. A woman who has suffered a non-fatal strangulation incident with her intimate partner is 750% more likely to be killed by the same perpetrator.

Strangulation is an indicator of lethality in domestic violence. After a strangulation attempt there are numerous medical risks that must be evaluated by a medical provider since most are invisible injuries including damage to the interior neck anatomy, lack of oxygenation, and an increased risk for strokes that can last for months after the assault. Every survivor of strangulation should seek medical attention due to the many and possible fatal consequences. 1 in 4 women have been victims of severe physical violence, including strangulation, by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Expanding the existing reimbursement law for forensic exams to include non-fatal strangulation that did not result from an alleged rape, sexual offense, or sexual abuse could save women’s lives by removing financial barriers to seeking medical treatment in the immediate aftermath of the violence. When women seek medical treatment, they can also be connected to services which can include safety planning and hopefully prevent a future domestic violence fatality.

**For these reasons, MLAW strongly urges the passage of HB482.**

## MLAW 2024 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2024 Legislative Agenda\*:

1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East  
AAUW Anne Arundel County  
AAUW Garrett Branch  
AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch  
AAUW Maryland  
Adolescent Single Parent Program (PGCPS)  
Anne Arundel County NOW  
Baltimore County Commission for Women  
Black Women for Positive Change, Baltimore Chapter  
Bound for Better, Advocates for Domestic Violence  
Child Justice, Inc.  
Church Women United, Inc.  
Climate XChange Maryland  
Court Watch Montgomery  
CTLDomGroup Inc  
DABS Consulting, LLC  
Engage Mountain Maryland  
Frederick County Commission for Women  
If/When/How at University of Baltimore School of Law  
Les Etoiles in Haiti  
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence  
Miller Partnership Consultants  
MomsRising  
Montgomery County NOW  
National Organization for Women, Maryland Chapter  
Prince George's County Public Schools  
Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise (ROAR) Center at University of MD, Baltimore  
REHarrington Plumbing and Heating  
Reproductive Justice Maryland  
Stella's Girls  
The Hackerman Foundation  
Top Ladies of Distinction Prince George's County  
TurnAround Inc.  
Women's Equity Center and Action Network (WE CAN)  
Women's Law Center of Maryland  
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporate - Alpha Zeta Chapter  
Zonta Club of Annapolis

*\*sign-ons as of 1/23/24*

### **Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women**

**102 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 100 • Towson, MD 21204 • 443-519-1005 phone/fax  
[mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com](mailto:mdlegagenda4women@yahoo.com) • [www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org](http://www.mdlegagendaforwomen.org)**