

KAREN SIMPSON
Legislative District 3
Frederick County

Judiciary Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Favorable: HB 482 - Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Victims of Nonfatal Strangulation

Hearing on 2/6/2024 at 1:00pm

To: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett and Fellow Members of the Judiciary Committee

The purpose of HB 482 - Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Victims of Nonfatal Strangulation is to provide financial relief for essential medical services to people who have survived severe trauma and protect our qualified healthcare providers.

In 2020, strangulation became a felony first-degree assault in Maryland, recognizing the long-term physical, mental, and emotional effects that have negative consequences on a victim's life. While this was an important step, victims are still held financially liable for their forensic examinations and medical treatment which are necessary to their recovery.

HB 482 extends the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board healthcare and forensic coverage for the cost of examinations and healthcare services in cases of nonfatal strangulation. In doing so, it allows qualified healthcare providers to be reimbursed for immediate care and follow-up services.

Oftentimes victims do not seek help because of financial hardship or in many instances, due to the fear of perpetuating the abuse especially when the bills for these examinations are sent to their home where their abuser may reside. Under the current Maryland code, the Board covers the cost of examinations and services involving rape, sexual offenses, and child sexual abuse. By adding nonfatal strangulation to this code, Maryland commits itself to uplifting, empowering, and protecting victims to become survivors instead of retraumatizing them.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to pass HB 482 to encourage more victims to report their experiences while safeguarding our qualified healthcare providers as they administer these critical recovery services.

I ask for a favorable report of HB 482 - Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Victims of Nonfatal Strangulation.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Simpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and the last name "Simpson" clearly distinguishable.

Delegate Karen Simpson
Legislative District 3 - Frederick County