



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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Testimony Supporting House Bill 575
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
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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 Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 575.

House Bill 575 – Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Reform

This bill provides for long overdue reform of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and reimbursement system in Maryland.

House Bill 575 improves administration of criminal injuries compensation (CICB). Applying for CICB in Maryland is administratively challenging at best. Survivors encounter repeated delays, repeated and confusing requests for documentation, lost applications, and unnecessary bureaucracy. There is no question that this has improved in recent years, but the efforts of office leadership are hampered by the current statute. HB575 helps correct the statutory deficiencies and create a more comprehensive response to survivors of crime.

Costs of Sexual Assault

The Centers for Disease Control published a study, "Lifetime Economic Burden of Rape Among U.S. Adults," in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine in 2017. Using mathematical modeling researchers were able to estimate the lifetime per-victim and total population economic burden of rape among adults in the US.¹

- \$122, 461 is the estimated lifetime cost per rape victim.²
- \$3.1 Trillion dollars is the cost of rape to our society.²
- Underserved populations experience additional barriers to reporting sexual assault and additional finance impact.

¹ The Resource, The National Sexual Violence Resource Center Newsletter, Fall 2018

² Peterson, C., DeGue, S., Florence, C., & Lokey, C. N. (2017). Lifetime economic burden of rape among US adults. *American journal of preventive medicine*, 52(6), 691-701.

- The National Violence Against Women Survey found that more than 19% of adult female rape survivors and more than 9% of adult male rape survivors said their victimizations caused them to lose time from work.

<p>Justice System Costs of Sexual Assault</p> <p><i>Primary Costs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal fees • Cost of Representation <p><i>Secondary Costs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpaid Leave, Transportation to Court • Child Care Costs 	<p>Workplace and Educational Impact of Sexual Assault</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of employment • Unpaid Leave (8.1 days a year) • Loss of Productivity • Loss of Development Opportunities • Drop out or forced out of school • Transfer Schools 	<p>Intangible Expenses of Sexual Assault</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain and suffering • Psychological distress • Decreased quality of life <p>Abusers can also inflict direct financial harm. Examples: destruction of property, fraud, workplace harassment, theft.</p>
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HB575 proposes workable changes to the time period for filing claims as part of its comprehensive reform. Survivors of sexual assault and of child abuse currently have extended time to file for CICB. Extending the time period for filing to other victims of crime is appropriate and well within the ability of this program. In particular, as a practical matter, sexual assault survivors have not been subjected to the 48 hour reporting rule for many years. Expanded access can and does work for these survivors and will work for all crime victims.

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 575

