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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 12, 2024
The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Luke Clippinger,
On behalf of the majority of the Women Legislators of Maryland members, we are writing to support **HB496 Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Definition of Consent and Repeal of Force**.

This bill requires certain facts to be considered when determining whether a lack of consent exists for the purposes of certain sexual crimes; and altering the elements of second-degree rape to remove the requirement of use of force or threat of force. The Women Legislators of Maryland fully support victims of sexual crimes and, therefore, offer full support for this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edith Patterson".

Delegate Edith J. Patterson
President