



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

P.O. Box 8782
Silver Spring, MD 20907
Phone: 301-565-2277
Fax: 301-565-3619

For more information contact:
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire
443-995-5434
www.mcasa.org

Testimony Supporting House Bill 1140
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
February 21, 2024

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 Ways & Means Committee to report favorably on House Bill 1140.

House Bill 1140 – Virtual Tutors – Background Check for Sexual Misconduct

This bill extends the background check for school personnel working with minors to tutors providing services virtually.

On-line sexual exploitation, predation, and harassment of children is an enormous problem for our state and our children, and the threat is growing. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline offers the public and online electronic service providers an easy way to quickly report suspected incidents of sexual exploitation of children online. Since 2012, they have seen an **8000% (eight-thousand) increase** in tips to this cyberline. This includes:

- over 80,000 reported incidents of online enticement of children for sexual acts;
- over 35,600 reported incidents of unsolicited obscene materials sent to a child;
- almost 32 million reported incidents of child pornography

Sex offenders working as virtual tutors can use their positions of trust to sexually exploit children. House Bill 1140 seeks to prevent this from happening by ensuring there is screening requirement to keep known sex offenders from becoming virtual tutors.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Ways & Means Committee to
report favorably on House Bill 1140**