



## House of Ruth Maryland

### Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

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Bill No.: House Bill 103  
Bill Title: Access to Counsel in Evictions – Task Force Termination and Special Fund  
Committee: Appropriations  
Hearing Date: February 11, 2025  
Position: **FAV**

House of Ruth is a non-profit organization providing shelter, counseling, and legal services to victims of domestic violence throughout the State of Maryland. House of Ruth has offices in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George's County, and Montgomery County. House Bill 103 would allocated \$14 million annually to the Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund. **We urge the House Appropriations Committee to favorably report on House Bill 103.**

Many survivors of intimate partner violence face housing instability and are at risk of eviction due to circumstances related to their abuse. Perpetrators of abuse often exercise financial control over their victims, including failing to pay rent unbeknownst to the victim, or failing to pay Emergency Family Maintenance pursuant to a protective order, causing the victim to be without sufficient means to pay rent. Having access to counsel in evictions proceedings protects the rights of survivors and helps them maintain stable housing, which is crucial for their safety and ability to live independently and free of violence.

**The House of Ruth urges the House Appropriations Committee to report favorably on House Bill 103.**