



House of Ruth Maryland

Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

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Bill No.: Senate Bill 508
Bill Title: Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance –
Required Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for
Victims of Domestic Violence (Healing Our Scars Act)
Committee: Finance
Hearing Date: February 11, 2025
Position: **FWA**

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. Senate Bill 508 requires health insurers to provide coverage to victims of domestic violence for certain aesthetic service and restorative care. **We urge the Senate Finance Committee to amend and report favorably on Senate Bill 508.**

Senate Bill would require health insurers and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for aesthetic services and restorative care to victims of domestic violence who are injured as a result of an act of domestic violence. This important coverage will enable victims who are injured by an abusive intimate partner to receive the medical services necessary to help heal their injuries, which not only supports victims’ physical recovery but also their ability to recover from the trauma of abuse.

The current version of SB 508 defines victims of domestic violence as those who are current or former spouses or cohabitants, which means that someone who has children in common or has been in a sexual relationship with an abusive partner would not qualify for the important services that this bill authorizes. House of Ruth urges that SB 508 be amended to define victim of domestic violence in conformity with the list of persons eligible for relief in Section 4-501(m) of the Family Law Article.

The House of Ruth urges the Senate Finance Committee to amend and report favorably on Senate Bill 508.