



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 739
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 which provides direct legal services for survivors across the State of Maryland. We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 739.

Senate Bill 739 – Warrantless Arrest – Intimate Partners Not Living Together

This bill would modernize the law permitting warrantless arrest to include persons who have had a sexual relationship in the past year. This expands provisions applying to those who are spouses or who live together. This reflects the reality that intimate partner violence can occur against dating partners, people "living together with two places", and other intimate partners who are neither married nor living in the same home, including victims of sexual offenses. SB739 would not alter the other limits of the law, including that there is evidence of physical injury; a report to police was made within 48 hours; and there is a risk that the alleged perpetrator will flee, cause injury or property damage, or spoliage evidence. It is a modest expansion of arrest authority that will increase community safety.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Judicial Proceedings Committee to
report favorably on Senate Bill 739**