



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 828
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 828.

Senate Bill 828 – Sensitive Locations

This bill would require the Attorney General to develop guidance limiting immigration enforcement in sensitive locations, including victim services centers, child advocacy centers, and domestic violence shelters.

Previously, immigrants were protected from enforcement actions “near” sensitive locations. The prior federal policy ensured that individuals—regardless of their immigration status—could access victim services, education, healthcare, and religious services without fear. Eliminating protection for sensitive areas endangers the people who are immigrants without legal status, and also jeopardizes the well-being of entire communities, having a ripple effect well beyond the individuals most vulnerable. If anyone – immigrant or not – is fearful of coming forward to report sexual violence or seek help, this increases the chance that sex offenders will not be identified and will remain threats in our communities.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Judicial Proceedings Committee to
report favorably on Senate Bill 828**