

## Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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## Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 362 Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel Jodi Cavanaugh, Legal Director (incoming) January 29, 2025

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 Judiciary Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 362.

## Senate Bill 360 – Forged Digital Images

This bill clarifies that digital images and recordings that misrepresent the appearance, speech, or behavior of a person are criminal and actionable as defamation if the image is likely to deceive a reasonable person to believe that the image or recording is genuine. This would include sexualized images and recordings and provide an avenue of relief if SB360 is not enacted or the image or recording does not fall under the definitions of sexual activity or intimate parts.

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 362