



Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

3300 North Ridge Road, Suite 185

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

410-203-9881

FAX 410-203-9891

Richard Gibson
President

Steven I. Kroll
Coordinator

DATE: February 11, 2025

BILL NUMBER: HB 533

POSITION: Favorable

As Co-Chair of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association Special Victims Unit, I write in strong support of HB533, which seeks to expand protections for victims of sexual assault and intimate partner violence by recognizing and enforcing Military Protection Orders (MPOs) under Maryland's existing Peace and Protective Order framework.

Survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault within military communities face unique challenges, particularly when civilian and military legal systems do not align. Currently, MPOs—issued by military authorities to protect service members and their families—lack the same enforceability as Maryland's protective orders, leaving victims vulnerable when they reside or seek safety outside military installations. This legislation streamlines legal protections, so victims do not have to go through additional legal hurdles to obtain protection under state law. This is necessary simplification for survivors to seek safety more efficiently.

MSAA and the FCASO believes HB533 support military families that face unique challenges such as frequent relocation and separation. This bill ensures survivors receive uninterrupted protection even if they move between military bases or civilian jurisdictions. We have incidents where there was an MPO and no civilian protective order so the local law enforcement could not do anything. This bill allows for proper notification and intervention that can save lives.

I urge the General Assembly to pass HB533 to strengthen protections for all survivors, regardless of their connection to the military. Thank you for your leadership in advancing this critical legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joyce R. King".

Joyce R. King
Chief Counsel
Frederick County State's Attorney's Office