



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

P.O. Box 8782
Silver Spring, MD 20907
Phone: 301-565-2277
Fax: 301-565-3619

For more information contact:
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire
443-995-5544
www.mcasa.org

Testimony Supporting House Bill 130
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
January 28, 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 (SALI), a statewide legal services provider for survivors of sexual assault. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 130.

House Bill 130 – Wiretap – Change to Misdemeanor

This bill would reclassify violation of the all party consent law for audio recordings from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Victims of violent crime, including sex crimes, have recorded their assaults in an attempt to document what has occurred. Current law prohibits use of these audio recordings in court proceedings and classifies the victims as felons. This discourages reporting of violent crime. HB130 is a modest step towards reducing the penalty for these crime victims. It also more appropriately responds to this type of recording in an era of ubiquitous cell phones and the ability to record at almost any time.

MCASA notes that the recently HB706 would also reclassify these crimes as misdemeanors, and would additionally provide for a longer statute of limitations, civil penalties, and additional restitution. MCASA supports the policies contained in both bills.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Judiciary Committee to
report favorably on House Bill 130**