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**WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND**  
**THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

February 13, 2025

To: Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair  
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair  
Judiciary Committee

On behalf of the Maryland Women's Caucus, we are pleased to express our strong support for **HB847: Criminal Procedure - Domestic Violence Offender Registry**. This critical legislation seeks to establish and maintain a Domestic Violence Offender Registry, ensuring that individuals convicted of multiple domestic violence offenses are properly monitored and that survivors have access to information that enhances their safety.

Domestic violence remains a pervasive issue in Maryland, disproportionately affecting women and children. Survivors often live in fear of repeated abuse, and without proper tracking mechanisms, offenders can continue to pose a significant threat to their victims and the broader community. HB847 provides an essential tool to help prevent further harm by requiring individuals convicted three or more times of a domestically related crime to register with their county sheriff before release or sentencing.

This bill is especially critical for protecting Maryland women. The creation of a Domestic Violence Offender Registry will provide law enforcement, survivors, and the public with access to crucial information about repeat offenders, reducing the risk of continued abuse. Survivors of domestic violence often struggle with limited resources to protect themselves. By making offender information accessible, this bill allows individuals to make informed decisions regarding their safety and that of their families. Studies show that repeat domestic violence offenders are more likely to commit severe and even fatal acts of violence. Additionally, holding repeat offenders accountable through mandatory registration reinforces the seriousness of domestic violence crimes and ensures that those with a history of abuse are not allowed to continue harming others without oversight.

Domestic violence is a crisis that demands action. For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus strongly urges the Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report for HB847. Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your commitment to protecting Maryland's women and families.