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**Working to end sexual violence in Maryland**

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**Testimony Opposing House Bill 1360**  
**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 (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 Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to report unfavorably on House Bill 1360.

**House Bill 1360 – Lobbyist Reporting During Session**

Regulated lobbyists currently file reports with the Ethics Commission twice a year in November and May. This includes information about which bills we have worked on, as well as some more general information about what topics we work on. HB1360 would impose additional reporting requirements during session: one due 2/15 for the 11/1-1/31 period and one due 3/15 for the month of February. Information regarding each matter and position on a bill or legislative action would also be reported.

We have spoken with the sponsor's office and, while we have no objection to the policy goal as we understand it, the reporting that HB1360 would require is onerous. It would compromise the ability of MCASA and other public interest non-profit organizations to participate in the public policy process. Resources for advocacy are scarce and most of us, including MCASA, have little in the way of administrative support. As many in on the Committee know, MCASA makes efforts to help on bills and ensure the views of sexual assault survivors are addressed and our laws are well crafted. HB1360 will reduce our ability to do this.

Our understanding of the concerns that prompted HB1360 is that some lobbyists are paid to represent competing sides of an issue and HB1360 is designed to shed light on this. If this is correct, MCASA urges the Committee to address this goal directly by adding language to General Provisions §5-714, the ethics provisions for lobbyists.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the  
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to  
report unfavorably on House Bill 1360**