



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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Testimony Supporting House Bill 1114
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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 Health Committee to report favorably on House Bill 1114.

House Bill 1114 – Increased Access to Prep and n-PeP

This bill increases access to HIV prevention treatment known Prep (pre-exposure) or nPEP (non-occupational post exposure prophylaxis) by permitting distribution by pharmacists and by increasing insurance coverage for this treatment.

One of the risks faced by rape survivors is HIV infection.¹ Studies of HIV transmission have been based on consensual sexual activity, and do not account for the violence of rape, so it is unclear what the risk level is, however, 91.9% of rape victims reported some degree of initial fear or concern for contracting HIV and 72.6% reported extreme fear or concern for contracting HIV.² Survivors seeking a forensic exam may be provided with this treatment as part of the exam free of charge, however, these exams are difficult to obtain in Maryland and some survivors choose not to seek forensic exams. This bill increases access for these survivors.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Health Committee to
report favorably on House Bill 1114**

¹ Draughon, J. (2012). *Sexual Assault Injuries and Increased Risk of HIV Transmission*.

² Resnick, H., Monnier, J., Seals, B., Holmes, M., Walsh, J., Acierno, R., Kilpatrick, D., (2002). *Rape-Related HIV Risk Concerns Among Recent Rape Victims*.

