
BILL NO:	House Bill 1107
TITLE:	Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance – Required Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for Victims of Domestic Violence (Healing Our Scars Act)
COMMITTEE:	Health
HEARING DATE:	March 13, 2026
POSITION:	SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a nonprofit legal organization dedicated to protecting the physical safety, economic security, and civil rights of women and their families across Maryland. Through our legal services, policy advocacy, and education, we work closely with survivors of intimate partner violence and see firsthand the long-lasting impact abuse can have on their physical and emotional well-being. For these reasons, the Women's Law Center supports **House Bill 1107 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program with Health Insurance – Required Coverage for Aesthetic Services and Restorative Care for Victims of Domestic Violence (Healing Our Scars Act)**. This bill would require both private insurers and Medicaid to cover certain aesthetic and restorative services for survivors of domestic violence.

Physical abuse often leaves survivors with visible injuries and scarring that serve as daily reminders of the violence they endured. While the immediate effects of abuse can range from bruises and broken bones to head injuries or permanent disability, even injuries that are not life-threatening can have long-term physical and psychological consequences, including chronic pain, migraines, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Access to restorative and aesthetic care can help survivors address these physical injuries and support their broader healing process. However, health insurance rarely covers these procedures, leaving many survivors dependent on limited pro bono services. By requiring coverage for these treatments, HB 1107 would help survivors move forward without the lasting physical reminders of abuse.

The Women's Law Center recommends one amendment to clarify who may determine medical necessity for the covered services. The bill currently limits this determination to physicians, but other licensed health professionals—including nurse practitioners and dentists—are also qualified to assess medical necessity and provide relevant care. The amendment would replace the language on page 3, lines 26–27 to read “healthcare practitioner who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized to practice under the Health Occupations Article.”

For these reasons, the Women's Law Center respectfully urges a **favorable report on House Bill 1107 with amendment**.