

BILL NO: Senate Bill 0129  
TITLE: Domestic Violence – Warrantless Arrests and Victims  
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings  
HEARING DATE: January 20, 2026  
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

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The Women's Law Center of Maryland is dedicated to ensuring the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women throughout the state. We fully support measures aimed at addressing the needs of survivors of intimate partner violence, including legislation that strengthens protections for survivors and closes gaps that leave many without immediate legal recourse.

Senate Bill 0129 amends § 2-204 of the Criminal Procedure Article to allow police officers to make warrantless arrests when they have probable cause to believe that a person has assaulted another individual with whom they have had a sexual relationship within the past year. This amendment expands the definition of intimate partner violence beyond spouses or individuals who reside together. Many survivors of intimate partner violence are not married to, nor living with, their abuser, yet still face serious and immediate danger. Intimate partner violence can occur in any intimate relationship. By including "another person with whom the person has had a sexual relationship within the past year," SB 0129 closes a critical loophole and extends necessary protections to survivors who are currently excluded.

For these reasons, the Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. urges a favorable report on SB 0129.

*The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a non-profit legal services organization whose mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women in Maryland. Our mission is advanced through direct legal services, information and referral hotlines, and statewide advocacy.*