



**violence in Maryland**

**Working to end sexual**

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**Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 736**  
**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 Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 736

**Senate Bill 736 – Child Sexual Abuse Materials – Modernization and Survivor Rights**

This bill is a long overdue modernization of laws regarding child sexual abuse materials (sometimes referred to as child pornography). The bill increases the maximum age from 16 to 18 of children in the definition of prohibited materials, increases penalties, and provides for additional civil remedies for survivors.

Victims portrayed in child sexual abuse materials suffer long lasting and repeated harm. They are sexual abused during the creation of the images, and then these victims experience repeated harm as the pictures of their abuse are circulated. The material travels the web, around the world, and is shared by the sex offenders interested in exploiting children by viewing their sexual abuse. SB736 increases protections for survivors who are minors, including those who were 16 or 17 during the creation of the materials. Critically, it also creates additional rights to sue those who create and use this material, diminishing their ability to profit from harming minors.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the  
Judicial Proceedings Committee to  
report favorably on Senate Bill 736**

