



Bill No: SB295
Title: Civil Actions - Immunity - Disclosure of Allegations of Sexually Assaultive Behavior (Stop Silencing Survivors Act)
Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Hearing: February 3, 2026
Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) is a statewide coalition of women's groups and individuals formed to provide a non-partisan, independent voice for Maryland women and families. MLAW's purpose is to advocate for legislation affecting women and families. To accomplish this goal, MLAW creates an annual legislative agenda with issues voted on by MLAW members and endorsed by organizations and individuals from all over Maryland. [SB295- Civil Actions - Immunity - Disclosure of Allegations of Sexually Assaultive Behavior \(Stop Silencing Survivors Act\)](#) is a priority on the [2026 MLAWAgenda](#) and we urge your support.

SB295 - Civil Actions - Immunity - Disclosure of Allegations of Sexually Assaultive Behavior (Stop Silencing Survivors Act) creates additional protections from retaliatory litigation for sexual assault survivors.

Sexual assault continues to be one of the most under-reported and under-prosecuted crimes in America. In Maryland and across the country, rapists are using retaliatory lawsuits to silence those who speak out about sexual violence. Survivors are being subjected to expensive, retraumatizing, and drawn-out litigation, and some are discouraged from ever speaking out.

Of all adult women residing in Maryland, 23.6%, or about 539,291 adult women, have experienced some form of completed or attempted rape in their lifetime. About 54.3%, or 1,240,828 of Maryland's women, and more than 30.7% of Maryland's men, about 674,025, have experienced other forms of sexual violence. (National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on SA Data Brief.)

This bill would provide protection from retaliatory litigation for survivors who disclose sexual assault in good faith, while preserving the right to sue for intentional or reckless disclosure of false information or malicious allegations of assault. It is fair and it is needed for survivors, the majority of whom are women. The bill would provide sexual assault survivors with the same protections that are currently given to employers providing employment references. It provides a practical and effective way to discourage sex offenders from using the courts to silence survivors.

Nearly 1 out of every 5 American women, 18 years or older, has been the victim of at least one attempted or completed rape in her lifetime. (National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2015 Data Brief.) This bill will help empower survivors who choose to disclose sexual assault and will help make our communities safer by making it more likely that sex offenders will be identified and held accountable.

MLAW strongly urges the passage of SB295.

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women
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MLAW 2026 Supporting Organizations

The following organizations have signed on in support of our 2026 Legislative Agenda*:

American Association of University Women-Anne Arundel County
American Association of University Women-Kensington-Rockville
American Association of University Women-Maryland
American Association of University Women-Garrett Branch
American Association of University Women-Howard County Branch
Baltimore County Commission for Women
Business and Professional Women – Montgomery County
Bound for Better, advocates for Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse
Campaign for Eneshal Galloway at Large Candidacy
Crabs On The Shore
Jack and Jill of America Western Maryland Chapter
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Montgomery County Commission for Women
National Organization for Women, Carroll County Chapter
National Organization for Women, Montgomery County Chapter
Postpartum Support International - Maryland
Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.
Postpartum Support International, Maryland Chapter
Self-Reflections: Social-Emotional, Behavioral and Advocacy Services, LLC
Stella's Girls, Incorporated
SUB&S LLC
The Heart Nest
The Rest Of A Life (TROAL)
Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.
Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated, Patuxent River Chapter
Unrooted Culture
Women's Commission for Baltimore City
Women's Equity Center and Action Network
Zonta Club of Annapolis

**As of 1/23/2026*