



Bill No: HB450  
Title: Criminal Procedure - Protection of Identity of Victim of Sexual Assault or Stalking  
Committee: Judiciary  
Hearing: February 10, 2026  
Position: FAVORABLE

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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. **HB450 - Criminal Procedure - Protection of Identity of Victim of Sexual Assault or Stalking** is a priority on the [2026 Legislative Agenda](#) and we urge your support.

**[HB450 - Criminal Procedure - Protection of Identity of Victim of Sexual Assault or Stalking](#)** protects identifying information of a victim of sexual assault or stalking from appearing in public court documents.

In 2024 the Maryland General Assembly passed SB 111 to protect the identities of Minor Victims. However, this showed there is still a gap in privacy protections for adults, particularly those who are victims of sexual assault or stalking. Survivor's names can easily be accessed and found in public court documents. Victims should not have their names printed with the details of their assault on public documents. This lack of respect for a person's privacy can be a barrier to somebody even reporting these types of crimes because now their personal trauma is going to be out there for anybody to see or exploit. Offenders have even used these court records to locate survivors, particularly in stalking cases.

This bill will require the Judiciary redact and shield victims names and their identifying information in court documents automatically, without a special request or any extra red tape that puts an extra burden on the victim. This will preserve the dignity of the survivor and remove a reason why people do not come forward and report these types of crimes.

**For these reasons, MLAW strongly urges the passage of HB450.**

## MLAW 2026 Supporting Organizations

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

AAUW Anne Arundel County  
AAUW Kensington-Rockville Branch  
AAUW Maryland  
AAUW Garrett Branch  
American Association of University Women Howard County Branch  
Baltimore County Commission for Women  
Bound for Better, advocates for Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse  
Campaign for Eneshal Galloway at Large Candidacy  
Carroll County Chapter NOW  
Crabs On The Shore  
Jack and Jill of America Western Maryland Chapter  
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA)  
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV)  
Maryland NOW  
Montgomery County Business and Professional Women  
Montgomery County Commission for Women  
Montgomery County Chapter, National Organization for Women  
National Association of University Women, Prince George's County  
NAUW  
Postpartum Support International, Maryland  
Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.  
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)  
Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated, Patuxent River Chapter  
Unrooted Culture  
Women's Commission for Baltimore City  
Women's Equity Center and Action Network  
Women's Law Center of Maryland  
Zonta Club of Annapolis

*\*As of 2/2/2026*