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## Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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### Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 512 Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel March 31, 2026

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 Judiciary Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 512.

#### Senate Bill 512 – Stalking

##### Increased Penalties for Serial Stalking or Stalking in Violation of a Protective Order

Senate Bill 512 would increase the penalties for stalkers convicted of stalking or who commit stalking in while a protective order for the same victim was in place.

Stalking of the victim by the offender is a frequent precursor of the sexual assault.

Roger, Laura, *Many Sexual Assaults Follow Stalking*, United States Department of Justice Archives (webpage), January 12, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/archives/ovw/blog/many-sexual-assaults-follow-stalking>

- Nearly half of victims stalked by an acquaintance were sexually assaulted by their stalker.<sup>1</sup>
- 48% of sexual assault survivors (ages 18-24) also experienced stalking.<sup>2</sup>
- 1 in 10 stalkers, who had no prior relationship, if they make a threat, they will act on it.<sup>3</sup>
- According to the 2018 Department of Defense (DoD) Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military, **22% of women and 23% of men experienced stalking either before or after a sexual assault incident.**<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Logan, T., & Landhuis, J. (2023). "Everyone Saw Me Differently Like It Was My Fault or I Wanted It": Acquaintance Stalking Victim Experiences of Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Autonomy. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 38(13-14), 8187-8186. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605231153892>

<sup>2</sup> Brady, P.Q., & Woodward Griffin, V. (2019). The Intersection of Stalking and Sexual Assault Among Emerging Adults: Unpublished Preliminary Results. mTurk Findings, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> MacKenzie, R., McEwan, T. E., Pathe, M., James, D. V., Oglloff, J. R., & Mullen, P. E. (2009). *Stalking Risk Profile : Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Stalkers*. (1st ed.) Monash University. (found via <https://saferfutures.org.uk/resources/stalking>)

<sup>4</sup> Kintzle, S., Schulyer, A. C., Alday-Mejia, E., & Castro, C. A. (2019). The continuum of sexual trauma: An examination of stalking and sexual assault in former US service members. *Military Psychology*, 474-480. DOI: 10.1080/08995605.2019.1664367

- Stalking is common. About 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men have experienced stalking in their lifetimes. Stalking is quite serious and impacts the physical and mental health of victims. Research shows stalking can lead to depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. About 68% of female and 70% of male victims experienced threats of physical harm during their lifetime. <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/features/prevent-stalking/index.html>.

**Stalkers who are stalking in violation of a protective order or who have committed stalking in the past are clearly dangerous. Permitting courts to impose a longer sentence in these cases recognizes the danger they pose and can help prevent future violence.**

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the  
Judiciary Committee to  
report favorably on Senate Bill 512**

