



Working to end sexual

violence in Maryland

P.O. Box 8782
Silver Spring, MD 20907
Phone: 301-565-2277
Fax: 301-565-3619

For more information contact:
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire
443-995-5544
www.mcasa.org

Testimony Regarding House Bill 467
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.

MCASA appreciates the provisions in this bill requiring that the parole board consider victim impact statements, no matter when they were made, as well as protections for victim privacy. These provisions are critical to this legislation and we would have grave concerns if they were removed.

While we cannot support a bill that includes such frequent parole reviews even in the most serious cases, we acknowledge the substantial improvements to this legislation since the original introduction last year, and appreciate the sponsor's work to address concerns of victims.