



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, Counsel  
443-995-5544  
[www.mcasa.org](http://www.mcasa.org)

**Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 376**  
**Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel**  
February 2, 2021

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 Budget and Taxation Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 376.

**Senate Bill 376 – NIMBL Loan Fund**

This bill would increase funds available for loans to nonprofits when government agencies administering grants fail to disburse grant funds in a timely manner. With some reluctance, the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges support for this bill. It is a work-around for government's inability to manage grant funds and should not be necessary. However, it is.

Nonprofit rape crisis centers around the state report delays receiving reimbursement for services provided to survivors of sexual assault. Some grants are reimbursed on a quarterly basis, meaning that community based non-profits are fronting funds for four or more months before being reimbursed. For example, reimbursement for salary paid the first week of January could not be requested until the close of the quarter, March 30<sup>th</sup>. It is not unusual for the State to take another 30-40 days to then provide the funds. Contrast this with the federal government, which not only provides reimbursement for funds expended within a matter of a 2 or 3 days, it also permits grantees to request funds that will be expended in the following 10 days. For example, a grantee with payroll on Friday could request needed funds today because the funds would be expended within 10 days.

In any event, the state is not providing funds promptly, so additional allocations for the NIMBL fund would help programs meet payroll, pay rent, and otherwise meet financial obligations.

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**urges the Budget and Taxation Committee to**  
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