



BILL NO: House Bill 463
TITLE: Maryland Health Equity Resource Act
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations and Ways and Means
HEARING DATE: February 2, 2021
POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the House Health and Government Operations and Ways and Means Committees to amend and issue a favorable report on HB 463.**

MNADV fully supports the intentions of HB 463. Unfortunately, domestic violence disproportionately impacts racial and ethnic minorities. Studies show that 45.1% of Black women and 40.1% of Black men have experienced intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.¹ Further, 31.8% of Black women and 16.8% of Black men have experienced one or more of the following intimate partner violence-related impacts: being fearful, concerned for safety, any post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, injury, need for medical care, housing services, victim advocate services, and/or legal services, missed at least 1 day of work or school, and contacting a crisis hotline.² Domestic violence against immigrant women is believed to be almost three times the national average.³

It is estimated that \$5.8 billion is spent annually on the medical and mental health costs and loss of productivity associated with domestic violence.⁴ Existing system inequities only further exacerbate the challenges faced by racial and ethnic minority survivors of domestic violence. In the 2019 National

¹ National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, *Domestic Violence and the Black Community*, https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/dv_in_the_black_community.pdf

² 5 Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., Walters, M.L., Chen, J., & Merrick, M.T. (2014). Prevalence and characteristics of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization — national intimate partner and sexual violence survey, United States, 2011. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: Surveillance Summaries*, 63(8), 1-18.

³ Dutton, M., Molina, R. and Young, L. (2015). Evidence of Coercive Control: Proof of Extreme Cruelty in Immigration Cases and Power and Control Dynamics in Family Law Cases. [online] National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project. Available at: <http://library.niwap.org/wp-content/uploads/Powerpoint-Evidence-ofCoercive-Control-Proof-of-Extreme-Cruelty-in-Immigration-Cases-and-Power-and-Control-Dynamics-in-FamilyLaw-Cases.pdf>

⁴ Stockman, Jamila K et al. "Intimate Partner Violence and its Health Impact on Ethnic Minority Women [corrected]." *Journal of Women's Health* (2002) vol. 24,1 (2015): 62-79. doi:10.1089/jwh.2014.4879

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Domestic Violence Hotline State Report for Maryland, 39% of hotline callers identified as Black/African American, 9% Latino/Hispanic, 6% Asian, 8% Other Race, 39% White/Caucasian.⁵

MNADV thinks that in addition to the already identified members in HB 463 for the Advisory Council, that the bill be amended to include a representative from the State Domestic Violence Coalition to ensure that the unique health equity needs of the racial and ethnic minority survivors of domestic violence are addressed.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report with amendments on HB 463.**

⁵ National Domestic Violence Hotline State Report, Maryland, 2019. <https://www.thehotline.org/stakeholders/impact-and-state-reports/>

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