



**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 299  
**TITLE:** Human Services - Trauma-Informed Care - Commission and Training  
**COMMITTEE:** Health and Government Operations  
**HEARING DATE:** March 23, 2021  
**POSITION:** **SUPPORT AS AMENDED**

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The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the federally recognized 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 Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 299 as amended.**

MNADV is supportive and appreciative of the Senate **adopted amendment that includes the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence on the Commission on Trauma-Informed Care** created by SB 299 to ensure that the unique needs of children exposed to domestic violence and families experiencing domestic violence can be addressed.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are known to have long-lasting and wide-ranging impact on those that have experienced one or more ACEs. One of the ten ACEs is whether a child observed their mother treated violently with 12.7% of participants in the original CDC-Kaiser Permanente Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study indicating they had experienced that trauma.<sup>1</sup> This does not include all the other types of domestic violence that may also occur in the home including psychological abuse, economic abuse, or verbal abuse. Further, exposure to any ACE increases the likelihood that a person may either become a victim or a perpetrator of intimate partner violence.<sup>2</sup> Children exposed to intimate partner violence often experience other ACEs, most notably child abuse.<sup>3</sup>

Understanding the power and control dynamics of domestic violence and the impact of exposure to domestic violence at a young age is imperative to help prevent intimate partner violence and victimization in those children exposed.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB 299 as amended.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/about.html>

<sup>2</sup> Franchek-Roa KM, Tiwari A, Connor AL, Campbell J. Impact of Childhood Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence and Other Adversities. J Korean Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry 2017;28:156-167. <https://doi.org/10.5765/jkacap.2017.28.3.156>

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*