



BILL NO: Senate Bill 484
TITLE: Criminal Procedure - Victims of Crime - Private Room
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE: February 10, 2021
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

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 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 484.**

Senate Bill 484 requires the State Board of Victim Services to create a poster that law enforcement agencies must post to inform victims of their right to request a private room when reporting information regarding crimes found in Title 3 of the Criminal Law Article. The types of crimes found in Title 3 of the Criminal Law Article, entitled Other Crimes Against the Person, include assault, rape, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.

Domestic violence remains one of the most underreported crimes with almost 600,000 unreported incidents of nonfatal domestic violence victimizations occurring each year between 2006-2015.¹ It takes a tremendous amount of courage for a survivor of domestic violence or any crime to one's person, to walk into a law enforcement agency and report it. Informing victims that they have the right to report a crime and share the personal details of their victimization in a private room is victim-centered and a practice and policy that Maryland and law enforcement agencies should embrace.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB 484.**

¹ Brian A. Reaves, Ph.D., *Bureau of Justice Statistics, Police Response To Domestic Violence, 2006-2015, 2017*, https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=5907&utm_source=juststats&utm_medium=email&utm_content=prdv0615_report_detail_page&utm_campaign=prdv0615&ed2f26df2d9c416fbddddd2330a778c6=lohfkfgkz-lktztdoo