



BILL NO: House Bill 674
TITLE: Landlord and Tenant - Stay of Eviction Proceeding for Rental Assistance Determination
COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation
HEARING DATE: February 22, 2022
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 House Environment and Transportation Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 674.**

With more than a third of domestic violence victims experiencing homelessness after leaving their abuser, the ability to access safe and affordable housing is paramount for victims and survivors of domestic violence. An inability to access safe and affordable housing is often an insurmountable barrier for a victim attempting to leave a domestic violence situation. Victims often remain in abusive relationships and children are exposed to ongoing violence because they have nowhere safe to go and are at risk of homelessness or housing instability.

Despite federal and state protections intended to prevent eviction for victims of domestic violence and support them in obtaining safe and affordable housing, victims often find themselves homeless. Victims face punishment or discrimination for an abusive partners violence. Often, victims experience financial abuse and may have insufficient funds and poor credit both necessary to secure housing.

HB 674 would provide for the stay of certain eviction proceedings when a tenant is waiting for a determination regarding the tenant's good faith application for rental assistance. When victims of domestic violence leave an abusive partner, they often seek rental assistance as they reestablish their financial stability. This bill will provide for greater housing stability and prevent homelessness for victims of domestic violence.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 674.**