



**BILL NO:** House Bill 887  
**TITLE:** Domestic Violence - Protective Orders - Status Hearings  
**COMMITTEE:** Judiciary  
**HEARING DATE:** February 24, 2022  
**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

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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 Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 887.**

Protective orders are of critical importance to victims of domestic violence. However, many victims are self-represented and unfamiliar with the court and legal process. Currently, the only way to address matters before a court if an issue arises while a final protective order is in effect is through either a motion for contempt or modification. Each motion requires procedural and legal steps be taken to access the courts. Issues may also arise that do not fit neatly into either one of these remedies.

HB 887 creates an additional mechanism to access courts while a final protective order is in effect. It is a clear and straightforward process that would require a court to hold a hearing at which time any pending issues related to the protective order case can be addressed. This will improve access to the courts for victims of domestic violence and therefore enhance their safety as well.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 887.**