



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

P.O. Box 8782
Silver Spring, MD 20907
Phone: 301-565-2277
www.mcasa.org

For more information contact:
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 328
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
February 8, 2022

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI), a statewide legal services provider for survivors of sexual assault. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 328.

Senate Bill 328 – Stalking by Electronic Tracking Devices

Senate Bill 328 expands the definition of stalking to include use of a device that can pinpoint or track the location of another without the person's knowledge or consent.

Stalking of the victim by the offender is a frequent precursor of the sexual assault.

Roger, Laura, *Many Sexual Assaults Follow Stalking*, United States Department of Justice Archives (webpage), January 12, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/archives/ovw/blog/many-sexual-assaults-follow-stalking>

Stalking is also common. About 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men have experienced stalking in their lifetimes. <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/features/prevent-stalking/index.html>.

In 2018, 10% of stalking victims reported being monitored with global positioning systems (GPS), and 8% report being monitored through video or digital cameras or listening devices. Stalking Fact Sheet (n.d.). SPARC. Retrieved October 26, 2021, from https://www.stalkingawareness.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/SPARC_StalkingFactSheet_2018_FINAL.pdf

Since then, tracking technology has improved, providing stalkers with easy tools to use to find their victims and their whereabouts. Devices like Apple's AirTags are described as a "stalker's dream". <https://www.westernjournal.com/apples-new-airtags-stalkers-dream/>

Sex offenders frequently stalk their victims before and after assaults. SB328 is a needed modernization of Maryland's stalking law.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Judicial Proceedings Committee to
report favorably on Senate Bill 328**