



BILL NO: House Bill 168
TITLE: Human Services - Temporary Cash Assistance - Calculation of Benefits
COMMITTEE: Appropriations
HEARING DATE: January 31, 2023
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 Appropriations Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 168.**

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.

Financial abuse occurs in 99% of domestic violence cases and is used by an abuser as a power and control tactic. The ability to establish financial independence and afford the numerous expenses needed to support themselves and children is a tremendous barrier for victims of domestic violence and a reason some do not leave their abuser.

House Bill 168 prohibits the reduction of the Temporary Cash Assistance benefit simply because a family lives in subsidized housing. Families should not be penalized for accessing multiple programs designed to support families in need.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 168.**

For further information contact Melanie Shapiro ■ Public Policy Director ■ 301-852-3930 ■ mshapiro@mnadv.org

1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway, Suite 300 ■ Annapolis, MD 21401
Tel: 301-429-3601 ■ E-mail: info@mnadv.org ■ Website: www.mnadv.org