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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

March 4, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
East Miller Senate Office Building, Room 2
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair William C. Smith, Jr.,

On behalf of the majority of the Women Legislators of Maryland members, we are writing to support **SB758 Criminal Law – Sexual Crimes – Definition of Consent and Repeal of Force**.

This bill requires certain facts to be considered when determining whether a lack of consent exists for the purposes of certain sexual crimes; and altering the elements of second-degree rape to remove the requirement of use of force or threat of force. This legislation ensures that there is a clear definition of consent, this gives way to more women being able to obtain justice when they have experienced a sexual assault.

This legislation also clarifies what consent is not, allowing a better understanding of the definition. The Women Legislators of Maryland fully supports victims of sexual crimes and, therefore, offers full support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Delegate Edith J. Patterson
President