



# House of Ruth Maryland

## Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

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Bill No.: House Bill 745  
Bill Title: Family Law – Protective Orders – Crimes of Violence and Stalking  
Committee: Judiciary  
Hearing Date: February 15, 2024  
Position: **FWA**

House of Ruth is a non-profit organization providing shelter, counseling, and legal services to victims of domestic violence throughout the State of Maryland. House of Ruth has offices in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Prince George’s County, and Montgomery County. House Bill 745 as amended would make much needed changes to the permanent protective order statute and would expand protections for victims of stalking under the peace order statute. **We urge the House Judiciary Committee to amend and report favorably on House Bill 745.**

Under current law, there are very narrow circumstances under which a victim of intimate partner violence may obtain a permanent protective order. House Bill 745 would give judges discretion in certain cases to issue a permanent protective order.

As amended, HB 745 will maintain important distinctions between those eligible for peace orders versus protective orders, while expanding protections for victims of non-intimate partner stalking. As such, House of Ruth supports HB 745 as amended.

**The House of Ruth urges the House Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 745 as amended.**