



# Women's Law Center of Maryland

## ***Celebrating 50 Years of Advancing Justice***

Dear Jessica,

Last week the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee (B&T) heard compelling testimony on [SB148 - Victim Services Programs - Supplementing Federal Funding and Support \(Victim Services Stabilization Act\)](#) from advocates across the state regarding the need for continued, stable Victim of Crimes Act funding through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victims Services.

SB148 specifically addresses challenges victim services providers experience regarding federal funds administered by the State. VOCA funding supports services for crime victims all across the state of Maryland, including the WLC. Funds are used for services such as counseling, advocacy, domestic violence shelters, child advocacy centers, support for rape victims at the hospital, and victim-witness support in court. The WLC depends on VOCA funds to provide free attorneys to survivors of domestic violence in family law and immigration matters. Yet on-going challenges with funding and the inconsistent administration of the grants has put organizations that rely on VOCA funding in precarious positions. This legislation will ensure state funds to compensate for VOCA shortages and provide structural improvements to the administration of the grants.

We are incredibly grateful to the leadership of [Senator Guzzone](#) and for the advocacy of our sister-agencies, the [Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#) for leading the campaign and the [Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence](#) for representing service providers across the state.

**Now I'm happy to report that the members of B&T not only voted unanimously in favor of SB148, but they all signed on as co-sponsors, signaling their unified and strong support of the legislation. The next step is a vote on the Senate floor, which is expected later this week.**

### **So what can you do? Take action!**

Contact [YOUR](#) state Senator TODAY and ask them to vote in favor of SB148!

And then you can send an email thanking the members of B&T for signing on to SB148 [HERE](#).

Thank you for your continued advocacy!

Onward,



P.S. As always, if you appreciate the work we do, whether in the General Assembly or through our [direct legal services](#) across the State, [give here!](#) And if this email was forwarded to you by a friend, make sure to sign up for our legislative alerts [here!](#)

**P.P.S. Save the Date for the WLC's Annual Celebration and Awards Ceremony on May 3rd at 6pm at Citron!** Join us in presenting the Rosalyn B. Bell Award to Marla Zide, Esq.; the Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award to Robyn Elliott; and the Access to Justice Award to Natasha M. Dartigue, Esq. and Debbie Feinstein, Esq. For more information or to buy tickets, click [HERE](#).

P.P.P.S. Save the date for these upcoming events from our partners and friends!

[Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women's 2023 Legislative Briefing](#) -  
Wednesday, February 1st at 5pm on Zoom

[Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence Annual Memorial Service](#) -  
Tuesday, February 21st at 4pm on Zoom

The 2023 Gender Justice Rally will be held February 27th in Annapolis. More details to come!

Have an event you'd like to share with us? Send us an [email!](#)

#### About The Women's Law Center of Maryland

The vision of the Women's Law Center of Maryland is a legal system that provides justice and fairness for women. The Women's Law Center's mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and autonomy of women throughout the State. We work towards this goal by providing direct legal representation, information and referral services, and legislative advocacy.

**Our efforts to promote justice, fairness, and equality for women are only possible because of friends like you.**

Give Today

*The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. is a charitable organization designated as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). A copy of our financial statement is available upon request. Documents and information submitted under the State of Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State of Maryland, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of copying and postage.*



Women's Law Center | 305 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 201, Towson, MD 21204

[Unsubscribe jmorgan@wlcmd.org](mailto:jmorgan@wlcmd.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [admin@wlcmd.org](mailto:admin@wlcmd.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!