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Women's Law Center
of Maryland

Celebrating 53 Years of Advancing Justice

Got Consent?

SB758 Criminal Law- Sexual Crimes- Consent and Second-Degree Rape

SB758 Removes antiquated force and threat of force standards, shifting the focus to an explicit and voluntary agreement and providing survivors with a victim-centered approach. SB758 bars the fact finder from utilizing blame tactics such as questioning the victim's clothing choices and if they had prior consensual sexual contact with the perpetrator, providing a straightforward approach to prosecuting and determining sex crime cases.

**Got
Consent?**

HB496

**Passes MD House of Delegates!
135-0**



Contact members of Senate Judicial Proceedings to bring SB758 for a vote, urging favor

Email Judicial Proceedings Committee Members to support SB758

Time for the Senate to Stand with Survivors

Sex without consent is rape. We need you to email JPR members and help pass SB758 to change Maryland's rape law by defining consent in the statute and repealing language that focuses on whether a victim resisted.

Contact members of Senate Judicial Proceedings to bring SB758 for a vote, urging favor.

Providing a **victim-centered approach** and **baring blame tactics** like questioning **clothing choices** or **prior consensual contact**. SB758 refocuses consent on the **explicit and voluntary agreement**.

Time for the Senate to Stand with Survivors!

The Women's Law Center of Maryland supports SB758

Email Judicial Proceedings Committee Members to support SB758

Consent is a Clear and Voluntary Agreement

Right now, when one person has sex with someone without consent, Maryland's rape law requires proof of lack of consent and Force or Threat of Force. Force of Threat of Force is proven by focusing on the survivor/victim and whether they resist.

SB758 changes the focus to whether there is a clear and voluntary agreement between the people involved.

Contact members of Senate Judicial Proceedings to bring SB758 for a vote, urging favor.

Contact JPR & ask them to conform SB758 to the House Bill and vote favorably!

Support SB758: Consent is a clear and voluntary agreement

We will provide updates on these bills and others we are working on as session progresses. In the meantime, don't forget to let **your legislators** know about what issues matter most to you!

Onward together,

Sponsored by Senator Ariana Kelly, **SB758 strikes "force or threat of force"** from the statute, leaving **"without consent of the other"** and provides a **definition of "consent"**.

This is NOT affirmative consent.

Consent is a Clear and Voluntary Agreement!

The Women's Law Center of Maryland supports SB758



Katie Curran O'Malley

Executive Director

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. RSVP TODAY for the WLC's Annual Celebration and Awards Ceremony on May 7th at 6 pm at Citron!

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.



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