



News: For Immediate Release
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OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Join Us in the Fight Against Abuse

BALTIMORE, October 29, 2026 – As we observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month this October, the Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence, a part of the Center for a Healthy Maryland, an affiliate of MedChi, emphasizes the urgent need for community engagement in addressing the critical issue of domestic violence.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) can have lasting consequences for survivors' health, including traumatic brain injury (TBI) caused by blows to the head or face, falls, or strangulation-related oxygen deprivation. Symptoms such as memory and concentration difficulties may be difficult to recognize and can overlap with the effects of trauma.

The Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence educates healthcare professionals about the connection between IPV and brain injury, helping them recognize potential signs, respond sensitively, and connect survivors with appropriate care and resources.

Through the Center for a Healthy Maryland's Survivors Wellness Project, survivors can also participate in trauma-informed support groups that foster connection, reduce isolation, and provide opportunities to share experiences and access resources. Together, professional education and survivor-centered support are important steps toward improving responses to abuse and its lasting effects.

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we encourage healthcare professionals, community organizations, and members of the public to learn more about the health consequences of intimate partner violence and the resources available to survivors.

Throughout October, we invite you to take action in support of this crucial cause. Here are several ways you can make a difference:

- **Spread Awareness:** Share information about domestic violence, brain injury, and the potential health consequences of abuse within your community.
- **Educate Yourself:** Learn how healthcare professionals can recognize possible signs of IPV and brain injury and respond in ways that support survivors' safety and well-being.

Support the Cause: Consider donating to programs that assist survivors, provide support groups, and educate healthcare professionals about domestic violence and its health effects:

<https://givebutter.com/wQRDsK>

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.



About The Center For a Healthy Maryland

The Center's mission is to advance the practice of medicine, enhance the quality of medical care, promote the health of the citizens of the State of Maryland, explore the history of medicine in Maryland, and preserve MedChi's archives. The Center's programs include supporting the study of medicine and the diffusion of medical knowledge through the continuing medical education of physicians; providing programs to maintain the wellness of practicing physicians serving the public; preserving and learning from the past history of medical care in Maryland; educating the public about medical issues and promoting public health programs.

About Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Founded in 1998, the mission of the Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence is to provide leadership within health care in promoting a proactive and effective response to intimate partner violence through screening, identification, education, intervention and treatment of domestic violence victims.