



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

January 29, 2020

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East – Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 206 – Motion to Vacate Judgment - Human Trafficking (True Freedom Act of 2020)

Dear Chairman Smith:

I am writing to express my support for SB 206, the True Freedom Act of 2020, which would expand Maryland's vacatur law to allow criminalized survivors of human trafficking to remove crimes other than prostitution from their criminal records, giving them a better chance to build sustainable post-conviction lives. The bill is also supported by Montgomery County's Commission for Women, as well as the County's Human Trafficking Prevention Committee.

Criminalized survivors often face barriers to employment, education and professional opportunities, financial independence, and secure housing. Without a change in Maryland's vacatur law like what is proposed under SB 206, human trafficking survivors will remain marginalized and vulnerable to further exploitation.

It is time for Maryland to pass meaningful criminal record relief for survivors of human trafficking. It is a worthy and important societal goal, and I would urge that the Committee adopt a favorable report on SB 206.

Sincerely,

Marc Elrich