

We are so grateful for your efforts in drawing attention and giving support to important legislature before this session of the MD General Assembly:

### **HB 0575 : Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program – Human and Sex Trafficking**

Our children need to know how to protect themselves against human and sex trafficking. Requiring the State Board of Education and nonpublic schools to develop, adopt, and implement a program of education on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault (human and sex trafficking) will meet this need.

It has been reported that the average age for being assaulted and /or trafficked continues to decline; therefore it is appropriate to make materials available for students in grades 6 through 8 to promote the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking.

Child sex trafficking has been reported to all 24 local Departments of Social Services throughout Maryland. There are frequent reports of arrests, convictions, and sentencing of predators in the local press. While that may be encouraging news, we **MUST** focus on **EDUCATION** and **PREVENTION** to equip and empower our children against becoming victims.

**HB 0575** is currently in the Ways and Means Committee which will be holding a hearing on February 13, 2020 at 1:00pm in Room 130.

We are asking for continued support of **HB0575** in one of two ways:

1. **Witness testimony on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 1:00pm**
  - Witnesses will need to submit their name, phone number, and email address to:  
Delegate Steven Johnson  
([Steve.Johnson@house.state.md.us](mailto:Steve.Johnson@house.state.md.us))
  - Witness testimony is limited to 3 minutes
  - Witnesses can be signed in beginning at 9:00am on Thursday, February 13, 2020.
2. **Written testimony addressed to the Ways and Means Committee in PDF format by February 12, 2020 to:**  
Delegate Steven Johnson([Steve.Johnson@house.state.md.us](mailto:Steve.Johnson@house.state.md.us))
  - All written testimony will be turned over to the Ways and Means Committee. However, Delegate Johnson may select individual testimonies to read aloud at the hearing.

**Thank you for choosing to protect our children by your engagement in moving HB0575 forward.**

Please email Kevin and Kim Hendricks ([hendrickskevinkim@yahoo.com](mailto:hendrickskevinkim@yahoo.com)) with any questions regarding witness or written testimonies.

Sincerely,

**Kevin and Kim Hendricks**

- *Parents*
- *Prevention Project Ambassadors*
- *Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force Members*