



## EASTERN SHORE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

Moving forward to combat this evil together

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.  
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 7, 2022

Dear Chairman Smith,

**Senate Bill 767 - Criminal Procedure - Human Trafficking - Vacatur and Expungement**  
**Hearing Date March 8, 2022**  
**Favorable with Sponsor Amendments**

Strengthening Maryland's statute that enables vacating convictions of human trafficking victims is needed. Therefore, the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force supports SB 767 with sponsor amendments. It will improve privacy protections for survivors seeking relief from forced trafficking-related crimes leading to convictions. SB 767 will also clarify judicial procedures relating to motions practice.

There are victims/survivors of human trafficking on the eastern shore and more so throughout Maryland. For the pimps and traffickers, it is highly profitable. For the victims/survivors and their families, it is a far-reaching tragedy with a long road to recovery. Improving their ability to vacate convictions for crimes they were forced into by their predators is a required step toward improving the future lifestyle of trafficking victims/survivors.

**For these reasons, the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force urges the Committee to give SB 767 including sponsor amendments a favorable report.**

Yours Truly

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Edwin Thomas'.

Edwin Thomas, Co-Chair  
1562 Efford Road  
Pasadena, MD 21122

***The MISSION of the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force is to:  
Combat human trafficking (sex and labor exploitation) by encouraging, supporting, and promoting  
awareness, prevention, and education throughout the Eastern Shore.***