



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 892

Delegate Kaufman et al.

Criminal Law - Benefits Trafficking

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB 892 - This bill prohibits the prohibits a person from knowingly recruiting, harboring, transporting, or obtaining an individual for the purpose of appropriating the government benefits of an individual for the benefit of the person or another through deception, coercion, exploitation, isolation, or any other means; prohibiting a person from aiding, abetting, or conspiring with one or more persons to violate a certain provision of the Act; establishing that a violation of the Act is a felony; etc.

The County Council acknowledges the critical importance of HB 892, aimed at prohibiting human trafficking and benefits exploitation. The bill addresses a pressing issue within our communities, where human traffickers exploit victims to shield themselves from prosecution, posing a serious threat to public safety and the well-being of vulnerable individuals. This bipartisan effort signifies a united front in combating human trafficking, emphasizing the gravity of the issue.

Human traffickers often utilize victims to commit acts related to exploitation, including recruitment, control, profit collection, and advertising services. Exploiting victims in these ways not only increases the risk of detection by law enforcement but also allows traffickers to use victims' identification for fraudulent access to government services. This bill seeks to dismantle such tactics, providing law enforcement with a crucial tool to hold traffickers accountable for their crimes.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS** HB 892 and respectfully requests the Committee's favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of Prince George's County Council