



Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Paris Hilton, and I am a Troubled Teen Industry survivor and advocate. I'm submitting this testimony because S.B. 400 is deeply personal to me, and to the thousands of survivors who, like me, have endured the trauma of youth transport.

When I was 16 years old, I was ripped from my bed in the middle of the night by two large men I had never seen before. I was given a so-called "choice"—to go the easy way or the hard way. But there was no choice. They handcuffed me and carried me out of my room as I screamed for help. I was shoved into the backseat of a car and taken to an airport. When I asked where I was going, when I begged to talk to my parents, they told me to shut up. Each time I pleaded, they grew angrier. I thought I was being kidnapped. Because in any other situation, that's exactly what this would be called.

The truth is, my parents had been sold a lie—manipulated into believing this violent transport was the only way to safely transition me into a residential facility. They were told it was for my own good. But there is nothing therapeutic about being dragged from your bed, handcuffed, and taken across the country against your will. This is not care. This is abuse.

Every year, thousands of children across the country are subjected to this same traumatic experience. Handcuffed. Blindfolded. Restrained. Forced into cars or planes with strangers, terrified and powerless. Their voices silenced. Their dignity stripped away.

I can tell you from experience—this causes lasting trauma. I suffer from insomnia, nightmares, and PTSD because of my experience. I wake up crying and terrified that I am being kidnapped from my home and locked into a facility where I can't escape. I don't wish this experience on anyone.



These “youth transport” companies operate in Maryland right now with little to no oversight. Parents are deceived. Children are traumatized. And the companies profiting from this practice are not held accountable.

Thanks to the leadership of Senator Gile, S.B. 400 is a critical step forward in protecting youth. Maryland has an opportunity to lead the nation in ensuring that no more children experience what I went through.

These kids are our future. They deserve safety. They deserve dignity. They deserve better. I urge you to vote YES on S.B. 400.

Thank you,

*Paris Hilton*