



## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

9830 Patuxent Woods Drive ■ Columbia, Maryland 21046 ■ 410-313-6400 voice/relay

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Jacqueline R. Scott, Director  
communityresources@howardcountymd.gov

FAX 410-313-6424

While there are some wonderful industry leaders like Marriott that have already adopted training for hotel staff on trafficking, it is not commonplace throughout the industry. Some establishments may require this kind of mandate to do so. This bill will establish a baseline of awareness and staff preparation at all lodging establishments. This another good incremental step forward towards increased detection of trafficking cases, leading to more prosecutions of traffickers and services provided to survivors.

There has been a strong effort in recent years to train law enforcement around the state on trafficking, and thanks to Delegate Ebersole's bill last year, Maryland now requires training on trafficking for truck drivers when they get their commercial licenses. In Howard County we're continuing to raise awareness throughout County agencies on trafficking and we partner frequently with our school system to give presentations on trafficking to educators and staff, students and parents. Similar collaborative efforts to conduct training and raise awareness are happening through our statewide and county task forces. The time is right to extend this push for increased awareness and basic training to one of the most frequent destinations for trafficking: our hotels and other lodging establishments.

Thank you for your time, Howard County Executive Ball respectfully urges a favorable report.

*The Department of Community Resources and Services provides vital human services through its offices of ADA Coordination, Aging and Independence, Children and Families, Community Partnerships, Consumer Protection, Human Trafficking Prevention, Local Children's Board, and Veterans and Military Families.*