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BILL NO.: **SB 206**

TITLE: **Criminal Procedure - Motion to Vacate Judgment - Human Trafficking (True Freedom Act of 2020)**

SPONSOR: **Senator Lee**

COMMITTEE: **Judicial Proceedings**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **January 29, 2020**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 206 – Criminal Procedure - Motion to Vacate Judgment - Human Trafficking (True Freedom Act of 2020). This bill would allow a person convicted of certain qualifying offenses to vacate the judgement if these offenses were committed as a result of being a victim of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a pernicious, cruel industry that often involves emotional and physical abuse for the purposes of coercing the victim to commit an illegal act. It is these very victims who are oftentimes arrested and convicted of a crime, despite being manipulated by another party. To force a victim of human trafficking to bear the burden of a lifelong conviction record is to victimize that person twice.

This bill would change that dynamic by allowing a victim of sex trafficking to vacate a judgement against them, bringing justice for residents who have not received proper support from the system. By addressing solicitation with sympathy towards victims of human trafficking, this bill would go a long way towards ending the criminalization of individuals who had no other options.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 206. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, 443-900-6582.