



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

January 27, 2020

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 242 – Motion to Vacate Judgment - Human Trafficking (True Freedom Act of 2020)

Dear Chairman Clippinger:

I am writing to express my support for HB 242, the True Freedom Act of 2020, which would expand Maryland's vacatur law to allow criminalized survivors of human trafficking to remove crimes other than prostitution from their criminal records, giving them a better chance to build sustainable post-conviction lives. The bill is also supported by Montgomery County's Commission for Women, as well as the County's Human Trafficking Prevention Committee.

Criminalized survivors often face barriers to employment, education and professional opportunities, financial independence, and secure housing. Without a change in Maryland's vacatur law like what is proposed under HB 242, human trafficking survivors will remain marginalized and vulnerable to further exploitation.

It is time for Maryland to pass meaningful criminal record relief for survivors of human trafficking. It is a worthy and important societal goal, and I would urge that the Committee adopt a favorable report on HB 242.

Sincerely,

Marc Elrich