



EASTERN SHORE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE
Moving forward to combat this evil together

February 3, 2020

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairwoman Kaiser,

HB 575 - Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Human and Sex Trafficking

Our children need to know how to protect themselves against human and sex trafficking. Requiring the State Board of Education and nonpublic schools to develop and implement a program of education on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault will meet this need. It has been reported that the average age for being assaulted and/or trafficked continues to decline; therefore, it is appropriate to make materials available for students in grades 6 through 8 to promote the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking.

Child sex trafficking has been reported to all 24 local Departments of Social Services throughout Maryland. There are frequent reports of arrests, convictions and sentencing of predators in the local press. That may be good news BUT, we must focus on education and prevention to equip our children to avoid becoming victims.

For the above reasons the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force requests the Committee to vote a favorable report for HB 575.

Yours Truly,

Ann Holladay

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***The MISSION of the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force is to:
Combat human trafficking (sex and labor exploitation) by encouraging, supporting and
promoting awareness, prevention and education throughout the Eastern Shore.***