

# **HB 138 Amara Legal Center Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ackerman, Caroline

Position: FAV



**BILL NO:** House Bill 138  
**TITLE:** Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program – Human and Sex Trafficking  
**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means  
**HEARING DATE:** February 3, 2021  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT

The Amara Legal Center writes to support House Bill 138 (HB138). We are grateful that Delegate Johnson introduced this important legislation to address human trafficking education for youth in grades six through eight. We believe that this bill is a step in the right direction to assist youth in identifying and avoiding trafficking situations. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our thoughts.

The Amara Legal Center (“Amara”) provides free legal services in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia to anyone whose rights are violated while involved in commercial sex, most commonly our clients are sex trafficking survivors. Since 2013, Amara has served over 500 clients. Although many believe that sex trafficking only occurs overseas or among foreign nationals, the vast majority of Amara’s clients are U.S. citizens, both juveniles and adults born and raised in the D.C. metro area. Amara provides brief legal advice, partial and full representation for civil legal issues such as civil protection orders, divorce, child custody and support, and name changes. In addition to civil legal services, Amara provides victim-witness advocacy for clients working with law enforcement, criminal/juvenile defense, and representation in criminal record sealing and expungement cases.

In the media, sex trafficking is often associated with images of young females who are physically restrained or locked away. In reality, there are several different kinds of trafficking (i.e. pimp-controlled, gang-controlled, familial, intimate-partner trafficking) and traffickers exercise forms of power and control over both male and female victims. It is crucial for youth to understand that traffickers exercise non-physical forms of control, such as emotional manipulation, gaslighting, social media and revenge pornography, illicit substances, and intimidation through gang networks. The failure to correct myths about trafficking prevents youth from being able to accurately identify trafficking situations. Amara has represented youth trafficked in Prince George’s County, Montgomery County, Anne Arundel County, and Baltimore County.

In a time where 22% of teenagers log on to their favorite social media site more than 10 times a day and more than half of adolescents log on to a social media site more than once a day,<sup>1</sup> we need to teach our children that traffickers are expert manipulators who use social media to recruit. It is important to teach youth to be cautious and beware of those who may seek to manipulate, exploit, and target young people. In the past, we have seen traffickers reach out to multiple teenagers in a school, add them as friends or followers, and use that smokescreen to show the teens that they are “safe.” The trafficker will then single out one or two individuals who the trafficker will groom, pretending to be a suitor until the trafficker is ready to have their victim begin to “work.” Similarly, traffickers will use promises of cell phones to lure victims into sex trafficking. Seventy-five percent of teenagers now own cell phones, and 25% use them

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<sup>1</sup> <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/127/4/800#ref-2>



for social media, 54% use them for texting, and 24% use them for instant messaging.<sup>2</sup> Teenagers and children can be easily manipulated with a promise of a cell phone, especially children from marginalized and under-resourced communities.

Youth who are trafficked often face serious collateral consequences, such as involvement in the juvenile justice system for crimes committed while being trafficked, or an addiction developed as a result of the trafficker using substances as reward or punishment. Educating students on trafficking at a young age can help them avoid the trauma of trafficking as well as any negative repercussions. Teaching youth how to identify trafficking situations and where to seek help will make an invaluable contribution to the trafficking prevention effort in Maryland.

The Amara Legal Center also supports the amendments proposed by the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force (MDHTTF). In particular, Amara encourages the expansion of the bill from grades six through eight to grades six through twelve. Both middle school and high school students are at risk of being trafficked. Amara has worked with clients as young as 11 years old and as old as 91. Human trafficking has no age limits. Traffickers prey on vulnerable populations. Therefore, continued age-appropriate education can play a significant role in youth building the skills to recognize and avoid trafficking situations. Similarly, Amara encourages collaboration between service providers working with trafficking survivors and educators to develop a curriculum that reflects the day to day realities of trafficking in Maryland. By inviting service providers to train educators and students on trafficking, or forming a work group including service providers to create the curriculum, youth will have access to up-to-date information on trafficking, grooming, and recruitment trends. It is imperative that we share information and expertise so that youth have the tools needed to avoid being trafficked. For these reasons, the Amara Legal Center supports HB138. We respectfully urge a favorable report with the aforementioned amendments.

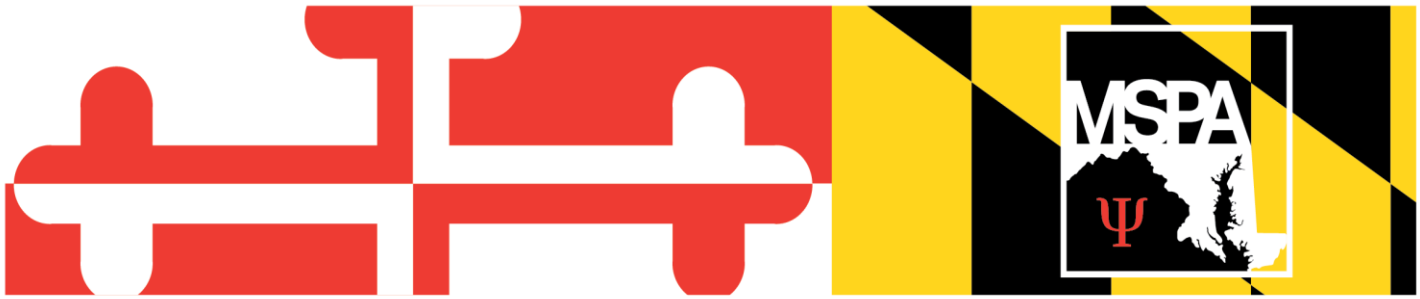
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<sup>2</sup> <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/127/4/800#ref-3>

**2021 MSPA HB 138 House Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Faulkner, Rachael

Position: FAV



Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Chair  
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair  
Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building, Room 131  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Bill: House Bill 138 – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program – Human and Sex Trafficking**

**Position: Support**

Dear Chairman Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists in Maryland. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state.

House Bill 138 would require MSDE and non-public schools to promote the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking in grades six through eight through age-appropriate, explicit instruction. In addition to what is already taught in sex education, children would learn differences between appropriate sexual interactions and those that are abusive and illegal. Developmentally appropriate education on the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking is vital to protecting Maryland's students.

MSPA supports HB 138 and we urge a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please contact us at [legislative@mSPAonline.org](mailto:legislative@mSPAonline.org) or our policy consultant, Rachael Faulkner, at [rfaulkner@policypartners.net](mailto:rfaulkner@policypartners.net) or 410-693-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Potter".

Kyle Potter, Ph.D., NCSP  
Chair, Legislative Committee  
Maryland School Psychologists' Association

# **Ways and Means Committee Support Letter-1-1.pdf**

Uploaded by: Hendricks , Donald

Position: FAV

We are so grateful for your efforts in drawing attention and giving support to important legislature before this session of the MD General Assembly:

### **HB 0575 : 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, adopt, and implement a program of education on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault (human and sex trafficking) 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. While that may be encouraging news, we **MUST** focus on **EDUCATION** and **PREVENTION** to equip and empower our children against becoming victims.

**HB 0575** is currently in the Ways and Means Committee which will be holding a hearing on February 13, 2020 at 1:00pm in Room 130.

We are asking for continued support of **HB0575** in one of two ways:

1. **Witness testimony on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 1:00pm**
  - Witnesses will need to submit their name, phone number, and email address to:  
Delegate Steven Johnson  
([Steve.Johnson@house.state.md.us](mailto:Steve.Johnson@house.state.md.us))
  - Witness testimony is limited to 3 minutes
  - Witnesses can be signed in beginning at 9:00am on Thursday, February 13, 2020.
2. **Written testimony addressed to the Ways and Means Committee in PDF format by February 12, 2020 to:**  
Delegate Steven Johnson([Steve.Johnson@house.state.md.us](mailto:Steve.Johnson@house.state.md.us))
  - All written testimony will be turned over to the Ways and Means Committee. However, Delegate Johnson may select individual testimonies to read aloud at the hearing.

**Thank you for choosing to protect our children by your engagement in moving HB0575 forward.**

Please email Kevin and Kim Hendricks ([hendrickskevinkim@yahoo.com](mailto:hendrickskevinkim@yahoo.com)) with any questions regarding witness or written testimonies.

Sincerely,

**Kevin and Kim Hendricks**

- *Parents*
- *Prevention Project Ambassadors*
- *Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force Members*

# **Ways and Means Committee Support Letter-1-1.pdf**

Uploaded by: Hendricks , Donald

Position: FAV



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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. While that may be encouraging news, we **MUST** focus on **EDUCATION** and **PREVENTION** to equip and empower our children against becoming victims.

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Please email Kevin and Kim Hendricks ([hendrickskevinkim@yahoo.com](mailto:hendrickskevinkim@yahoo.com)) with any questions regarding witness or written testimonies.

Sincerely,

**Kevin and Kim Hendricks**

- *Parents*
- *Prevention Project Ambassadors*
- *Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force Members*

# February 1.pdf

Uploaded by: Maloney, Kathleen

Position: FAV

February 1, 2021

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

Dear Chairwoman Kaiser,

**HB 138 - Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Human and Sex Trafficking - Favorable**

I support 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. Our children need to know how to protect themselves and against human and sex trafficking. HB 138 will help meet this need, particularly since educators will be educated on the signs of human and sex trafficking, which will help them identify potential child victims. 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 sex abuse and human trafficking.

Combating human trafficking and sex exploitation begins with awareness and prevention. Having materials available in a **safe environment** such as a school, is extremely important. Think of adult victims who are provided with materials in public bathrooms or in public health care facilities where they can be made aware of sex abuse and human trafficking. As a previous Child Protective Services worker, I recall that **the majority of abuse and neglect cases were reported by school officials**. Having children be aware of what is happening to them and be able to identify a safe adult to talk to about this issue is extremely important. Informing students in grades 6 - 8 will help prevent them from becoming victims and equip them to make others aware of the dangers associated with human trafficking including labor trafficking. There are reports of arrests, convictions and sentencing of predators in the local press. It will be best if through education we prevent such crimes and not need to treat the victims and perpetrators.

**For the above reasons, I vote a favorable report for HB 138. I do request that a date be included in 7-439 (c) for the adoption of the regulations.**

Sincerely,

Kathleen Maloney, LCSW-C

# **A.McAreeWrittenTestimony**

Uploaded by: McAree, Ashley

Position: FAV

## **Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 0138: Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Human and Sex Trafficking**

Submitted by:

Ashley McAree, MSN, RN, FNE-A/P, SANE-A

Human Trafficking Liaison/Forensic Nurse • Greater Baltimore Medical Center SAFE Program  
Co-Chair • Baltimore County Human Trafficking Work Group

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 0138. My name is Ashley McAree and I am a forensic nurse with Greater Baltimore Medical Center's SAFE Program. Within this role, I provide direct care to patients who have been affected by violence and abuse, specifically sexual assault, domestic violence, child physical and sexual abuse, and human trafficking. I also co-chair the Baltimore County Human Trafficking Work Group and work alongside a strong multi-disciplinary team to combat this crime in our community.

Children are being exploited for labor and sold for sex every single day in our state. I frequently witness the debilitating effects of human trafficking victimization first-hand. I have cared for victims of human sex trafficking as young as 10 years old. Traffickers target those who are most vulnerable and easily manipulated. Children are frequently victimized due to their vulnerabilities. Many children are targeted, groomed, and exploited before they even know what is happening. This type of crime can have devastating, life-long effects on young victims.

Anti-trafficking professionals work tirelessly in our reactive approach, caring for those who have already been viciously victimized. In addition to our reactive response, we must also focus on a proactive response to stop this crime from occurring in the first place. Raising awareness and providing education to those high-risk individuals is key to decreasing human trafficking in our communities. We must arm at-risk individuals with the knowledge necessary to identify recruitment, grooming, and signs of human trafficking before the exploitation begins. We must also provide information about the lifesaving resources that are available to the public.

Over the past few years, I have strived to improve our response to human trafficking patients by developing policies, protocols, and trainings. I have personally trained over 3,000 individuals on the human trafficking crisis in our community and have seen first-hand the positive outcomes that can result from even a brief educational offering. I believe that age-appropriate human trafficking education for grades 6 through 8 would prove to be effective at increasing awareness about this crime and decreasing the rate of youth victimization. It is recommended that the proposed curriculum be evidence-based, align with national best practices for human trafficking education, include survivor input, and be developed by human trafficking experts.

For these reasons, I urge you to support House Bill 0138. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide written testimony and for your consideration.

# HB138 - Riya Patel.pdf

Uploaded by: Patel, Riya

Position: FAV

Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I write to you on the behalf of students and adolescents in the State of Maryland who are not equipped with the proper education to prevent themselves from becoming targets of human trafficking. While outlawed, it is an underground, hidden crime industry that is continuously growing worldwide without the knowledge of law enforcement and the government, let alone the general public. I went through the Maryland school system and I would never have learned about human trafficking and its impact within our state without personal research. So, I ask a question: How do you expect individuals to prevent themselves from falling victim to a crime they do not even know exists? If students are old enough to be trafficked, they are old enough to learn about what human trafficking is, how to identify the signs, and how to go about protecting themselves if in such a situation. My peers and I have never been taught or heard of human trafficking in the Maryland school system. Yet, Maryland ranks as the fourth largest hotspot for trafficking in the country. Prevention education not only protects potential victims but also prevents the development of potential buyers. The human trafficking industry is a supply and demand industry. If children are taught that buying labor and sex, knowingly or even unknowingly, could be part of a human trafficking ring, then they will think twice about it in the future. If the demand goes down, then the need for a supply will decrease as well. Additionally, social media and dating apps are often used to find victims. The younger generations are increasingly the most active on social media, which makes them the easiest targets. While it is important, human trafficking cannot be eliminated by simply making it illegal. It is critical to change the mindsets of individuals who might grow up thinking this is okay. Teaching children about human trafficking can save lives, and can make our State and our communities safer. This is why I ask for your support on HB138, on the behalf of the students in the Maryland school system.

Thank you,

Riya Patel

Ph: 443-371-1135 / Em: rpatel19@owlmail.harford.edu

**Maryland Catholic Conference\_FAV\_HB138.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sheahan, Molly

Position: FAV





ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

**February 3, 2021**

**House Bill 138  
Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program –  
Human and Sex Trafficking**

**House Ways and Means Committee**

**Position: Support**

The Maryland Catholic Conference represents the public-policy interests of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Washington and the Diocese of Wilmington, which together encompass over one million Marylanders.

**House Bill 138** requires age-appropriate educational programming on awareness and prevention of human trafficking to be included in existing sexual abuse and assault prevention curriculum for students in grades six through eight.

Promoting awareness about the realities of human trafficking is essential in the fight to combat it. Maryland is uniquely positioned to be a “hot spot” for human trafficking activity, due to the interstate highways that run through it, its close proximity to numerous large cities, and its ports of call and major international airports. Unfortunately, few Marylanders are aware of the presence of human trafficking in the state, leaving traffickers hidden and children more vulnerable to exploitation. Education on the awareness and prevention of human trafficking in an age-appropriate way for all students in Maryland is a crucial first step in adding more eyes and ears to anti-trafficking efforts.

The Conference was also a strong supporter of Erin’s Law which passed in 2016, requiring all public and nonpublic schools to implement a child abuse curriculum, and participated in the follow up workgroup created by MSDE to implement the law. Thanks to the existing programs operated by the three archdioceses in Maryland, the Church was able to provide the workgroup numerous examples of best practices and other expertise in child abuse prevention programs. This bill will be a helpful supplement to the child abuse curriculum already in place in Maryland schools.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on **HB 138**.

# **Trafficking - education - house testimony - 2021.**

Uploaded by: Jordan, Lisae C

Position: FWA



**Working to end sexual violence in Maryland**

P.O. Box 8782  
Silver Spring, MD 20907  
Phone: 301-565-2277  
Fax: 301-565-3619

For more information contact:  
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire  
443-995-5544  
www.mcasa.org

**Testimony Supporting House Bill 138 with Amendments**  
**Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel**  
February 3, 2021

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI), a statewide legal services provider for survivors of sexual assault. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Ways & Means Committee to report favorably on House Bill 138 with Amendments

**House Bill 138**

**Sexual Abuse & Assault Awareness and Prevention Program, Human and Sex Trafficking**

This bill adds education about "human and sex trafficking" to the currently mandated curricula on awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault. The current mandate provides broad guidance at the state level, with additional community specific information developed locally. MCASA and many of its member rape crisis centers across the state have been involved in developing the current sexual abuse and assault prevention curricula; notably, this generally also includes information on consent.

Providing students with information regarding trafficking is an important component of prevention. Stopping the horrific crimes of trafficking must continue to be the responsibility of adults, not children, however education can help empower children and promote resilience. Including age-appropriate information regarding sex trafficking would fit well in current curricula regarding sexual abuse and assault and regarding consent. It is less clear whether labor trafficking would fit into this education and MCASA encourages the Committee to provide local schools flexibility on this point. Additionally, we express concern at limiting the trafficking education to students between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. These are smaller details, however, and MCASA fully supports HB138's larger goal of ensuring that students receive information about sex trafficking as part of their education. MCASA also encourages the Committee to require that teachers providing this education have the training the need to be effective, and notes that MCASA and other agencies are available to assist with training needs.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the  
Ways & Means Committee to report favorably on House Bill 138**

**HB138(21).pdf**

Uploaded by: Ositelu, Rev. Ida

Position: FWA

February 1, 2021

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

Dear Chairwoman Kaiser,

**HB 138 - Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Human and Sex Trafficking - Favorable**

I support 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. Our children need to know how to protect themselves against human and sex trafficking HB 138 will help 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 sex abuse and human trafficking.

Combating human trafficking and sex exploitation begins with awareness and prevention. Informing students in grades 6 - 8 will help prevent them from becoming victims and equip them to make others aware of the dangers associated with human trafficking including labor trafficking. There are reports of arrests, convictions and sentencing of predators in the local press. It will be best if through education we prevent such crimes. Educating our vulnerable children is a necessary tool in prevention.

**For the above reasons, I am requesting that the Committee to vote a favorable report for HB 138. I do request that a date be included in 7-439 (c) for the adoption of the regulations.**

Yours Truly,

Rev. Ida Y. Ositelu  
516 Georgia Avenue Apt C  
Salisbury, Maryland 21801

**HB138\_MNADV\_FWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shapiro, Melanie

Position: FWA



**BILL NO:** House Bill 138  
**TITLE:** Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program  
Human and Sex Trafficking  
**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means  
**HEARING DATE:** February 3, 2021  
**POSITION:** **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

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The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the House Ways and Means Committee to issue a favorable report with amendments on HB 138.**

House Bill 138 would require the State Board of Education and certain nonpublic schools to develop and implement a program of age-appropriate education on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault that includes for 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. There are many intersections between human trafficking and domestic violence including the power and control dynamics found in both forms of violence. In 2019, the top recruitment tactic for trafficking was an “intimate partner/marriage proposition” according to the data reported by the National Human Trafficking Hotline.<sup>1</sup> MNADV fully supports the development and implementation of such a curriculum and would recommend that the education in our schools continue through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

MNADV believes that education and awareness is critical for the prevention of human trafficking. Research and best practices surrounding human trafficking is continuously evolving. Since human trafficking is such a specialized field, we believe that experts in the field of human trafficking and those with direct experience working with survivors of trafficking should be involved in the development of the curriculum. Further, since new research and best practices regarding human trafficking are continuously developed, the curriculum should be reviewed at regular intervals to ensure that it is reflective of the most recent knowledge of human trafficking. In 2019, Maryland passed a long overdue statute to criminalize labor trafficking in the state. We would further recommend that any curriculum address both sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report with amendments on HB 138.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Polaris-2019-US-National-Human-Trafficking-Hotline-Data-Report.pdf>

**ESHTTF HB138(21).pdf**

Uploaded by: Thomas, Edwin

Position: FWA





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

January 30, 2021

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

Dear Chairwoman Kaiser,

**HB 138 - Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Human and Sex Trafficking - Favorable**

We support 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. Our children need to know how to protect themselves against human and sex trafficking. HB 138 will help 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 sex abuse and human trafficking.

Combating human trafficking and sex exploitation begins with awareness and prevention. Informing students in grades 6 - 8 will help prevent them from becoming victims and equip them to make others aware of the dangers associated with human trafficking including labor trafficking. There are reports of arrests, convictions and sentencing of predators in the local press. It will be best if through education we prevent such crimes and not need to treat the victims and perpetrators.

**For the above reasons, the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force requests the Committee to vote a favorable report for HB 138. We do request that a date be included in 7-439 (c) for the adoption of the regulations.**

Yours Truly,

Ann Holladay, Co-Chair  
6590 Cedar Cove Road  
Royal Oak, MD 21662

Edwin Thomas, Co-Chair  
1562 Efford Road  
Pasadena, MD 21122

**HB 138 - MDHTTF - FWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Wallerstedt, Anne

Position: FWA



**BILL NUMBER:** House Bill 138

**TITLE:** Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program – Human and Sex Trafficking

**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means

**HEARING DATE:** February 3, 2021

**POSITION:** Support with Amendments

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The Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force (MDHTTF) and its members respectfully request a favorable report with the inclusion of the undermentioned amendments for House Bill 138, as it has the possibility to make a significant impact on the ability to combat human trafficking across the state.

House Bill 138 requires age-appropriate educational programming on awareness and prevention of human trafficking to be included in existing sexual abuse and assault prevention curriculum for students in grades six through eight.

MDHTTF supports efforts to dismantle human trafficking by strengthening laws prosecuting traffickers, providing services and rehabilitation to victims, and increasing awareness of the issue. Education on the dangers and prevention of human trafficking – both sex and labor trafficking – is a critical tool, especially when taught to students through age-appropriate curriculum. MDHTTF would suggest that this curriculum be taught from the sixth grade through the twelfth grade, not simply ending at eighth.

Human trafficking is an ever-evolving enterprise, and those working on the front line of anti-human trafficking efforts have the awareness and years of earned knowledge on how to adapt to these realities. MDHTTF therefore has pause at the creation of curriculum on human trafficking without the input of such experts. To that end, MDHTTF suggests that if funding is not available or feasible for the appropriate individuals or organizations immersed in anti-trafficking efforts to either train those tasked with teaching the material or teach it themselves, that a working group, including at least one human trafficking provider, is created to develop the curriculum and ensure proper implantation. We further would suggest that this curriculum is reviewed at least every two years, due to the rapidly changing nature of human trafficking.

Lastly, we want to ensure that any curriculum educating about human trafficking includes information about both labor and sex trafficking, and includes the commercial sexual exploitation of children and commercial sexual abuse of children.

MDHTTF thanks the Committee for its consideration of HB 138 and respectfully requests a favorable report with the inclusion of the aforementioned amendments.

**About MDHTTF:** Formed in 2007 by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Attorney General of Maryland, and the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, MDHTTF serves as the lead investigative, prosecutorial, and victim services coordinating body for anti-human trafficking activity in the State of Maryland. MDHTTF has grown to include most law enforcement agencies in the State, all child-serving state agencies, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Homeland Security Investigations, most local State's Attorney's Offices, and dozens of victim service agencies. MDHTTF is comprised of five committees – legislative, law enforcement, victim services, public awareness, and training. During this time, MDHTTF has grown a robust understanding of the issue of human trafficking in Maryland.

For more information, please contact Amanda Rodriguez at [arodriguez@turnaroundinc.org](mailto:arodriguez@turnaroundinc.org) or Anne Wallerstedt at [azwallerstedt@gmail.com](mailto:azwallerstedt@gmail.com), co-chairs of the Legislative Committee of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force.

# **AACPS HB138 Sex Trafficking Curriculum OPP 2.3.21.**

Uploaded by: Ortiz, Jeanette

Position: UNF



**HB138 EDUCATION - SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM -  
HUMAN AND SEX TRAFFICKING**

February 3, 2021

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

**OPPOSE**

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB138 Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Human and Sex Trafficking**. This bill requires that the age-appropriate education program on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault developed and implemented by the State Board of Education and each nonpublic school include, for students in grades 6 through 8, material promoting the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking.

Maryland schools provide their students with a comprehensive Pre-K –12 health education curriculum that focuses on a student’s development of protective life skills and promotes health and well-being. As part of this comprehensive health education curriculum, AACPS students are educated in Family Life and Human Sexuality as well as Safety and Violence Prevention. Students participate in age-appropriate instruction on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault. This instruction includes age-appropriate instruction on the meaning of “consent” and respect for personal boundaries.

While this legislation is well-intentioned, AACPS opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate local public school curriculum or assessments. The authority to establish curriculum and assessments is the domain of the State Board of Education and the local boards of education, the same entities charged with the responsibility to research, investigate, and evaluate both curriculum and assessments. Maintaining this authority with the State Board and local boards allows local boards of education to collaborate with the State and stakeholders to ensure that all students, schools, and school systems are held accountable.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB138.

**HB 138 sexual abuse awareness PSSAM info.doc.pdf**

Uploaded by: Fannon, Mary Pat

Position: INFO



**Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director**

**BILL:** House Bill 138  
**TITLE:** Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program – Human and Sex Trafficking  
**DATE:** February 3, 2021  
**POSITION:** Letter of Information  
**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means  
**CONTACT:** Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

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This bill requires that age-appropriate education program on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault be developed and implemented by the State Board of Education and certain nonpublic schools, for students in grades 6 through 8, material promoting the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking.

PSSAM is supportive of the intent of this bill but provides this letter of information to note that many local school systems are currently incorporating these issues in their health curriculum. We believe it is unnecessary and inappropriate for the Legislature to mandate explicit language and wording in curriculum.

Under current law each local school system must provide a comprehensive health education program for all students in prekindergarten through grade 8, and offer an education program in grades 9 through 12 that enables students to meet graduation requirements and to select health education electives. In order to graduate from a public high school in Maryland, students must complete a half credit of health; however, the State Board of Education is currently recommending this be increased to a full credit. Moving to a full credit will give additional time to address the specific concerns of human and sex trafficking without a mandate from the Legislature.

PSSAM thanks the sponsor for his interest and advocacy but firmly believes decisions regarding curriculum belong to local boards of education working together with the State Board of Education.

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*One Voice, One Vision for Maryland's Students*

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# **HB 138 - LOI - Education – Sexual Abuse and Assaul**

Uploaded by: Hands, Zachary

Position: INFO



**Grade 7**

Identify power differences in relationships between potential abusers and their victims. 1d.7.10

Identify a source of support that a student can go to if they or someone they know is being sexually mistreated, groomed, harassed, abused, assaulted, or exploited. 1d.7.11

Analyze laws, policies, and consequences related to sexual mistreatment, grooming, harassment, abuse, assault, exploitation, and **human trafficking** that are designed to protect young people. 1d.7.12

**Grade 8**

Identify situations including domestic violence where physical, emotional, verbal, or sexual abuse occurs in a person's family. 1d.8.11

Describe situations and behaviors that constitute sexual mistreatment grooming, harassment, abuse, assault, exploitation, and boundary violations. 1d.8.12

The Health Education Framework, as revised to comply with previous legislation, addresses abuse and assault prevention in a disproportionate manner. A robust group of educators, representatives from non-public agencies, and child abuse and assault prevention experts and advocates developed the framework. While the indicators for grades 6 and 8 do not explicitly include the words human trafficking, *sexual mistreatment, grooming, harassment, abuse, assault, exploitation, and boundary violations* were selected by the committee to represent age-appropriate instruction on abuse, assault, and exploitation.

Since 2014, the Maryland General Assembly has enacted four State Education laws that have impacted Health Education in Maryland public schools. These laws have mandated instruction related to consent, opioids, sexual abuse and assault, and hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillators. Health Education must be relevant as our world changes. Prioritizing statutory mandates rather than emergent health needs will limit the flexibility of health education programs to remain current and will negatively impact dedicated time for skill development.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 138**. For further information, please contact Zachary Hands, at 410-767-0504, or [Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov](mailto:Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov).