

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
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