

Favorable Response to HB165 Education – Sexual Abu

Uploaded by: constance buckley

Position: FAV

**Favorable Response to HB165 Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention
Program - Human and Sex Trafficking**

March 23, 2022

Dear Chair and members of the committee:

My name is Constance Buckley, and I am a resident of Harford County. I am appreciative that Delegate Johnson has introduced HB 165 because we know the growing threat of Human Trafficking, especially sex trafficking. I am writing in support of **Bill #: HB 165, Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program – Human and Sex Trafficking** that would require the State Board of Education and nonpublic schools that hold a certificate of approval from the State Board and participate in the Nonpublic Schools Textbook and Technology Grants Program to develop and implement a program of age-appropriate education on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault that includes, for students in grades 6 through 8, material promoting the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking.

It is critical we begin to educate our youth in school surrounding prevention, as we know knowledge is power. That is the same mindset that should be applied when it comes to teaching our children how to identify dangerous behaviors, and how to look out for signs for adults trying to groom them and take advantage of them. We must leverage our schools to provide awareness and prevent sexual abuse and assault while promoting age-appropriate materials essential to prevention. I hope this committee gives HB 165 a favorable vote on the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

Constance Buckley

Constance Buckley

ESHTTF HB165(22)sen.pdf

Uploaded by: Edwin Thomas

Position: FAV



EASTERN SHORE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

Moving forward to combat this evil together

March 22, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky,

HB 165 - 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 165 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. This is particularly true as traffickers reach their potential young victims through the electronic devices they use with great frequency.

For the above reasons, the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force requests the Committee to vote a favorable report for HB 165.

Yours Truly,

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

Maryland Catholic Conference_FAV__HB165.pdf

Uploaded by: Jenny Kraska

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 23, 2022

House Bill 165

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

Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs 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 165 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 165**.

HB 165.pdf

Uploaded by: Tonia Ferguson

Position: FAV

Testimony Concerning H.B 165 Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention
Program – Human and Sex Trafficking Submitted to Senate Education, Health and Environment Affairs

March 23, 2022

Position: Support

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of Bill HB 165 - Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program – Human and Sex Trafficking that requires the State of Board of Education and nonpublic schools that hold a certificate of approval from the State Board and participate in the Nonpublic Schools Textbook and Technology Grants Program to develop and implement a program of age-appropriate education on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault that includes, for students in grades 6 through 8, material promoting the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking. As a woman and community member, this bill is important to me because recently I had a cousin who was approached by a male walking home from school. She had no idea how to deal with this issue and did not know much about human and sex trafficking. It is critical that we educate our youth about human trafficking and prosecute and eradicate the scourge of human trafficking in our communities throughout Maryland. Education and prevention are the keys, and we have to look beyond the surface to ensure age-appropriate content is being taught in our schools about the basic forms of human trafficking as fraudulently, forcibly, or coercively using another for the purpose of exploitation.

For these reasons, I urge a favorably report on HB 165.

Respectfully submitted, Tonia Ferguson, tonia1913@hotmail.com,

Trafficking - education - house in senate - testim

Uploaded by: Lisae C Jordan

Position: FWA



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

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For more information contact:
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Testimony Supporting House Bill 165 with Amendments
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
March 23, 2022

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 Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee to report favorably on House Bill 165 with Amendments.

House Bill 165

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 6th and 8th grade. These are smaller details, however, and MCASA fully supports HB165's larger goal of ensuring that students receive information about sex trafficking as part of their education. MCASA also notes that the bill requires that teachers providing this education have the training need to be effective, and notes that MCASA and other agencies are available to assist with efforts to train educators.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
to report favorably on House Bill 165**

Trafficking - education - SARC Harford County Test

Uploaded by: Lisae C Jordan

Position: FWA



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Testimony Supporting House Bill 165 with Amendments March 23, 2022

The Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center (SARC) is a non-profit organization in Harford County, Maryland that serves victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and human trafficking. SARC is a comprehensive victim service provider and urges the Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee to issue a favorable report with amendments to HB165.

House Bill 165: Sexual Abuse & Assault Awareness and Prevention Program, Human and Sex Trafficking 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 and human trafficking. This prevention program would be given in the already existing health courses for 6th to 8th graders. The average age of victimization for human trafficking is 13 years old, so educating our children on warning signs and prevention techniques is crucial during this age period. These educators could also be a point of access for help for anyone who is being abused or exploited.

SARC believes that this type of crucial education and prevention should not end in 8th grade but should continue until 12th grade. Human Trafficking is an ever-evolving topic, statistics, best practices, and red flags can change with more evidence-based research. SARC and other local victim service agencies would be a resource to assist schools in developing this program.

SARC believes that HB165 is an important piece of the overall prevention initiative within our communities' and that educating children at school is a critical component to ending sex trafficking. **The Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center urges the Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee to report favorably on House Bill 165.**

HB 165_MNADV_FWA_EHE.pdf

Uploaded by: Melanie Shapiro

Position: FWA



BILL NO: House Bill 165
TITLE: Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program
- Human and Sex Trafficking
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
HEARING DATE: March 23, 2022
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

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 Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to issue a favorable report with amendments on HB 165.**

House Bill 165 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 6th to 8th 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. MNADV fully supports the development and implementation of such a curriculum and would recommend that the education in our schools continue through the 12th 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 165.**



For further information contact Melanie Shapiro ■ Public Policy Director ■ 301-852-3930 ■ mshapiro@mnadv.org

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HB165 Human and Sex Trafficking 3.23.22.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeanette Ortiz

Position: UNF



HB165 EDUCATION - SEXUAL ABUSE AND ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAM - HUMAN AND SEX TRAFFICKING

March 23, 2022

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB165 Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Human and Sex Trafficking**. The 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 Maryland 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.

AACPS is committed to an ongoing and thorough review of curricula and materials of instruction to ensure that diversity, equity, and inclusion are promoted and evident. AACPS has a committee that reviews curriculum and materials of instruction. Representatives from all stakeholder groups including parents/guardians, teachers, and students are included in the review process. However, it is important to note that this legislation would require additional funding to create curriculum and assessments in grades through 8 and, thus, creating an unfunded mandate as the creation of curriculum and assessments is a thoughtful and time consuming process which involved various stakeholders. AACPS opposes unfunded mandates.

Again, the district’s opposition to this bill does not rest on an evaluation of the merits of teaching any particular subject matter, certainly not education about sexting, but rather on the school system’s opposition to statutorily mandating the teaching of any one concept or content item as well as the opposition to unfunded mandates.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB165.

HB 165.Human Sex Trafficking Curriculum Mandate -

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: UNF

BILL: House Bill 165
TITLE: Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Human and Sex Trafficking
DATE: March 23, 2022
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) opposes House Bill 165, which would require 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.

Local boards of education are committed to providing programs of instruction, health services, school facilities, and school meals designed to promote the physical and mental health and fitness of students and to prepare them to maintain a healthy lifestyle as adults. In this light, MABE appreciates the intent of this bill, but opposes adopting a specific student health instruction standard in this manner.

As this committee knows, MABE opposes efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum, firmly believing that this role belongs to local boards of education in conjunction with the State Board. Although MABE agrees that human trafficking awareness and prevention education is a valuable component to comprehensive school health education programs, MABE maintains a strong preference for the adoption of State standards and the local discretion to achieve those standards through locally adopted curriculum and instructional tools and practices.

Again, MABE's opposition to this bill does not rest on an evaluation of the merits of teaching any specified subject matter, certainly not age-appropriate education about human trafficking, but rather on the association's opposition to statutorily mandating the teaching of any one concept or content item.

For these reasons, MABE requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 165.

HB0165 Howard Co BOE Testimony 032322 for EHEA - S

Uploaded by: Staff Howard County

Position: UNF



**Board of Education of Howard County
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland Senate,
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 23, 2022**

**Board of Education
of Howard County**

Vicky Cutroneo, *Chair*

Antonia Watts, *Vice Chair*

Christina Delmont-Small

Yun Lu, Ph.D.

Jennifer Swickard Mallo

Jolene Mosley

Chao Wu, Ph.D.

Peter J. Banyas
Student Member

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
*Superintendent
Secretary/Treasurer*

HB0165: UNFAVORABLE

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

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) opposes **HB0165 Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Human and Sex Trafficking**.

While well-intentioned, HB0165 mandates the content of Health Education curriculum, by requiring that a program of age-appropriate education on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault include material promoting the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking in grades 6 through 8. As a legislative platform the Board supports local decision making in the development of curriculum that accounts for a balance of educational practices, available resources, public input, and accountability that is informed and guided by State Board established standards and models, rather than legislative mandates as encompassed in HB0165.

The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) provides a comprehensive Health Education program that aligns to State curriculum standards and focuses on a student's development of protective life skills and promotes health and well-being. Topics such as sexual mistreatment, grooming, harassment, abuse, assault, and exploitation are currently included in HCPSS curriculum at all three levels. While Howard County has included human trafficking specifically in middle school curriculum for several years, it was also recently added to the [State Health Education framework](#) in grade 7.

For these reasons, we urge an UNFAVORABLE report of HB0165 from this Committee.

HB 165 - LOI - Education - Sexual Abuse and Assaul

Uploaded by: Yousuf Ahmad

Position: INFO



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

BILL:	House Bill 165	DATE:	March 23, 2022
SUBJECT:	Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program – Human and Sex Trafficking	COMMITTEE:	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
POSITION:	Information Only		
CONTACT:	Ary Amerikaner 410-767-0090 ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov		

EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information for consideration regarding **House Bill 165 – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program – Human and Sex Trafficking**, which would require MSDE and the State Board of Education to develop and implement material promoting the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking for students in grades 6 through 8.

MSDE supports the inclusion of human and sex trafficking prevention education in grades 6-8 as part of comprehensive health education, and has worked to include these concepts in the existing Health Education Framework. Safety and Violence Prevention is one of six core concepts that is part of the comprehensive skills-based health education program.

To that effect, MSDE, in collaboration with local school system leaders and experts in the field of Health Education, revised and published an updated [Maryland Framework for Comprehensive Health Education](#) in July 2020. This framework specifies what every child should know and be able to do at each grade level. The Health Education Framework includes the indicators below related to human and sex trafficking in grades 6-8 (p. 32-34).

Grade 6

Identify and describe healthy relationships between children and others (e.g., persons in authority, coaches, teachers, and clergy). 1d.6.9

Identify verbal and/or non-verbal actions that constitute sexual mistreatment, grooming, harassment, abuse, assault, and exploitation. 1d.6.10

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

A robust group of educators, representatives from non-public agencies, and child abuse and assault prevention experts and advocates developed the framework. While all 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. MSDE registers concerns that the additional requirements established in House Bill 165 may be duplicative of existing requirements and lead to unnecessary confusion for local school systems.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **House Bill 165**. Please contact Ary Amerikaner, at 410-767-0090, or ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov, for any additional information.