

**MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**  
**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Hon. Joseph M. Getty  
Chief Judge

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** House Bill 833  
Criminal Law – Victims of Child Sex Trafficking – Safe Harbor  
and Service Response  
**DATE:** March 23, 2022  
(3/29)  
**POSITION:** Oppose, as drafted

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The Maryland Judiciary continues to oppose amended House Bill 833, as drafted.

The Judiciary continues to strongly support the intention of the bill, and notes that many of the concerns previously identified have been addressed in the amendments. However, the Judiciary remains concerned that the bill does not address what happens to the child while the assessment by the regional navigator is pending, or if that assessment is challenged. Specifically, the Judiciary is concerned that there are no identified criteria or time requirements for the regional navigator’s assessment, and that this might result in uncertainty and delay.

cc. Hon. Brooke Lierman  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O’Connor