



## **EASTERN SHORE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

**Moving forward to combat this evil together**

March 7, 2022

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Smith,

**Senate Bill 768 - Criminal Law - Victims of Child Sex Trafficking - Safe Harbor and Service Response**  
**Hearing Date: March 8, 2022**  
**Favorable**

Child sex trafficking victims deserve a way out of the juvenile legal system when charged with prostitution and other related crimes. Therefore, the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force supports SB 768 as it will protect, rather than criminalize, children who are victims of human trafficking, and provide them with the specialized services they require.

Human trafficking is the second highest grossing criminal enterprise. For the pimps and traffickers, it is high profit and low risk. For the victims and their families, it is a far-reaching tragedy with a long road to recovery. There have been several cases on the eastern shore, and many more throughout Maryland, where minors have been trafficking victims subjected to unspeakable acts. They need a Safe Harbor to protect and assist them, SB 768 will go a long way in meeting this need throughout Maryland.

**For these reasons and to improve Maryland's child sex trafficking laws which were recently been given an F, the lowest possible grade, by Shared Hope International the Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force urges the Committee to give SB 768 a favorable report.**

Yours Truly

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edwin Thomas".

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