

HB165 FAIR FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Brenda Jones

Position: FAV

Favorable Response to HB165

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

Families Advocating Intelligent Registries (FAIR) seeks rational, constitutional sexual offense laws and policies for persons accused and convicted of sexual offenses. We also wholeheartedly support laws which serve to educate and reduce future offenses in a positive manner.

The creation of an awareness program for the middle school grades seems to us a potentially very beneficial addition to Maryland schools' overall sexual abuse and assault prevention program. Knowledge of potential risky behaviors and external hazards can be a powerful deterrent.

We hope that you will support HB-165.

Sincerely,



Brenda V. Jones, Executive Director
Families Advocating Intelligent Registries
Cell: 301-318-8964

(MSC) HB165 Testimony (FWA).pdf

Uploaded by: Jon DiPietro

Position: FWA

MARYLAND STUDENT COALITION

JON DIPIETRO, DIRECTOR
HUNTER CRAIG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

CHRIS LIDARD, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
LAUREN RASKIN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
VINAY KHOSLA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

TESTIMONY

BILL: House Bill (HB) 165 - Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Human and Sex Trafficking

SPONSOR: Delegate Johnson, Harford County (34a)

POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

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Wednesday, January 12, 2022

HB165: Favorable with Amendments

The Maryland Student Coalition is an entirely student-led, advocacy group that serves to bring students together to promote education policy reform. Founded in 2020 as a vehicle for advocating for students' right to demonstrate, our scope has since expanded to include more educational advocacy initiatives. You can learn more at marylandstudents.org

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and honorable members of the Ways and Means Committee. We are writing in favor of House Bill 165.

House Bill (HB) 165 - Education - Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program - Human and Sex Trafficking, which requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to develop and implement material promoting the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking for students in grades 6 through 8.

The Maryland Student Coalition supports human and sex trafficking prevention education in grades 6-8 as part of comprehensive health education. To stop human trafficking and sexual exploitation, awareness and prevention must be prioritized. Starting this early, with students in grades 6 through 8, will help prevent them from becoming victims and provide them the tools to make others aware of the issue.

MARYLAND STUDENT COALITION

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Although the responsibility for making specific curriculum decisions resides with local school systems (in accordance with §4-111(a) (1) of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland) we support the state's authority to ensure consistent and effective implementation of comprehensive curriculum across the state.

The Maryland Student Coalition respectfully requests that a date be included in 7-439 (c) for the adoption of the regulations, however, supports the principals within the legislation, and strongly encourages issuing a **favorable** report on HB165.

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Trafficking - education - house testimony - 2022

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
January 18, 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 Ways & Means 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 the 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
Ways & Means Committee to report favorably on House Bill 165**

HB 165_MDHTTF_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Melanie Shapiro

Position: FWA



BILL NUMBER: House Bill 165

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

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

HEARING DATE: January 18, 2022

POSITION: Support with Amendments

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 165, as it has the possibility to make a significant impact on the ability to combat human trafficking across the state.

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.

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 antihuman 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.

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.

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 165 and respectfully requests a favorable report with the inclusion of the aforementioned amendments.

For more information, please contact Amanda Rodriguez at arodriguez@turnaroundinc.org or Melanie Shapiro at mshapiro@mnadv.org, co-chairs of the Legislative Committee of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force.

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.

HB 165_MNADV_FWA.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: Ways and Means
HEARING DATE: January 18, 2022
POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

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 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.¹ 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.**

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

HB165 Human and Sex Trafficking 1.18.21.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeanette Ortiz

Position: UNF



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

January 18, 2022

WAYS AND MEANS 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.

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: January 18, 2022
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee
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 would 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 skin cancer 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 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.

HB 165 sexual abuse awareness PSSAM oppose.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Pat Fannon

Position: UNF



Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director

BILL: House Bill 165
TITLE: Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program -
Human and Sex Trafficking
DATE: January 18, 2022
POSITION: Oppose
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

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 must **oppose** due to our core philosophy that curriculum decisions are left to superintendents and their local boards of education. However, it is important to note that many local school systems are currently incorporating these important topics in their health 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 one credit of health; this was changed from a half credit requirement last year. 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 superintendents and local boards of education working together with the State Board of Education.

One Voice, One Vision for Maryland's Students

P. O. Box 12040 | Baltimore, MD 21281 | Cell: 410-935-7281 | Web Site: www.pssam.org | E-Mail: marypat.fannon@pssam.org

HB 165 - LOI - Education - Sexual Abuse and Assaul

Uploaded by: Ary Amerikaner

Position: INFO



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

BILL:	House Bill 165	DATE:	January 18, 2022
SUBJECT:	Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program – Human and Sex Trafficking	COMMITTEE:	Ways and Means
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.

2022 MSPA SB 165 House Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Scott Tiffin

Position: INFO



Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 14, 2022

Bill: House Bill 165 – Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program – Human and Sex Trafficking

Letter of Information

Dear Chairman Atterbeary, Vice Chairman 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 165 requires Maryland schools to incorporate information in the health curriculum regarding the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking for all students grades six through eight. While MSPA is committed to reducing human and sex trafficking, we are concerned about the way in which this education will be presented, and how students will be supported after the information is presented. The National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments published a report in January 2021 identifying strategies to reduce trafficking in schools, and they identified a “specialized human trafficking curriculum” as a potential strategy.¹ However, other recommended strategies include measures such as training all staff, providing social-emotional skills education, and a way for students to report information to mental health providers following their education. Additionally, the report recommended strong community partnerships.

Currently, there is a significant shortage of school psychologists and other mental health providers in schools. School-based mental health providers already are working beyond their capacity, significantly below the national standards. There may be an influx of students requiring support during human and sex trafficking education that school-based providers may not have the ability to manage. We would urge the committee to consider ways to improve the implementation of education regarding human and sex trafficking in schools, and how to support school-based professionals and students throughout this process.

MSPA is interested in working with members of the committee to develop ways to reduce human and sex trafficking for school-aged children. We are concerned with the potential implications of HB 165. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please contact us at legislative@mspaonline.org or Scott Tiffin at stiffin@policypartners.net or 443-350-1325.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Phipps, M.Ed., Ed.S., NCSP
Chair, Legislative Committee
Maryland School Psychologists' Association

¹ National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments. (2021). *Human trafficking in America's schools: What schools can do to prevent, respond, and help students to recover from human trafficking*, 2nd edition. <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/sites/default/files/NCSSLE-2021HumanTraffickingGuide-508.pdf>