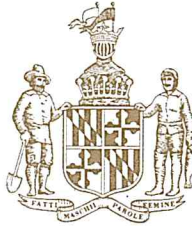


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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 203

***MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION –
CHILD EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AWARENESS, TRAINING, AND RESPONSE***

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 203 is a straight-forward piece of legislation designed to combat child exploitation and human trafficking in our communities and to equip employees working with the Maryland Department of Transportation with the information necessary to recognize the signs of these crimes.

This bill would require the Maryland Department of Transportation to put in place both a human trafficking recognition education training program curriculum (offering guidance to employees and contractors of Maryland transit agencies on ways to recognize and respond to the signs associated with human trafficking) and a reporting procedure to when such crimes are recognized. Additionally, the bill would require the development and implementation of human trafficking related signage and audible public service announcements throughout Maryland transit stations, airports, port facilities, and highway rest stops.

As someone who spent the majority of his professional career in law enforcement, and as someone who personally worked to stop these types of crimes as Prince George's County Sheriff, I am confident that this legislation will provide a means to protect some of those victimized by this hidden and heinous crime in our State.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 203.