

SB0292 Senator Waldstreicher / JPR Hearing
UNFAVORABLE

Criminal Law - Victims of Child Sex Trafficking and Human Trafficking
- Safe Harbor and Service Response

I urge an UNFavorable on this bill. This bill will bring more and younger children into the business of prostitution, child pornography and child trafficking. It will also increase crime in areas where prostitution exists. Additionally, the Maryland Judicial Conference is against the bill.

https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/cmte_testimony/2022/cap/1-WsM-Ph-OC76oS5HfEX3gtNy5TAgtNqR.pdf

Ending charges of prostitution will not help those who've ended up in prostitution, whether by their own choice or through coercion.

<https://catwinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Ten-Reasons-for-NOT-Legalizing-Prostitution.pdf>

Lawmakers, I strongly urge an UNFavorable on this will. The intent is to minimize those youth who get caught up in prostitution. There is an awful methodology used in Annapolis hearing rooms that to free one young criminal lawmakers & jailers must empty the prisons.....out of empathy & kindness, they so delude themselves.. The advocates are frequently former convicts, employing relativistic ethics.. This bill has been contemplated in California, where citizens determined the harm would far outweigh any good. Hispanic Sheriffs have been outspoken about the harm such a bill brings. And the actual harm is increased numbers and duration of teen prostitution. Communities' crime

[Violent crime rates as a proxy for social determinants of STD rates: the consistent state-level correlation between violent crime and reported STDs in the United States, 1981–2010. Sex Health. 2013] and disease will increase. American and illegal alien children will be victimized by such a bill. Note which demographic(s) will be harmed. This bill aims to harm them. "...note a troubling pattern for Black Americans. Chlamydia,

gonorrhea, HIV and syphilis top the list of most reported new sexually transmitted infections (STIs) globally. STD rates are typically 5-8 times higher for African Americans or Black people than for non-Hispanic White people. This year's data suggest that the city with the highest STD rate was Jackson, Mississippi, which was followed by Baltimore....

...The new data shows gonorrhea cases in women — which have gradually increased since 2014 — went up steeply last year. .. infections among women grew more sharply in recent year, data shows... ..Black and Latino women accounted for the majority of female gonorrhea and syphilis cases, officials said."

<https://patch.com/new-york/new-york-city/syphilis-gonorrhea-surge-among-nyc-women-healthofficials-say>

AS A REMINDER TO THE LAWMAKERS, I HAVE BROUGHT SOLUTIONS/BILLS TO ANNAPOLIS FOR ABOUT A DECADE TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF DRUG USE, TEEN CRIME AND PROSTITUTION, ET CETERA ET CETERA.

You simply don't seem concerned about fixing these issues as you ignore nationally-recognized experts on reducing fatherlessness in Maryland. HIV is spreading and will spread even more with this bill. "Baltimore has the highest rate of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) in the U.S. and D.C. isn't far behind, according to a new study... CDC attributes the following factors to the rise of STDs in the U.S.: Drug use,...Decreased condom use among vulnerable groups, including young people and gay and bisexual men"

<https://wjla.com/news/local/baltimore-dc-20-us-cities-highest-std-rates>

This bill will have the effect of legalizing prostitution for children. In just the last year, New York and NYC have been testbeds of such awful policy.

It will bring a generational curse of these teens, similar to the pre Rudy Guiliani era in NYC, which was both dangerous in disease spread and with crime spreading. Prostitution And Massage Parlors Now Legal In New York City as reported APRIL 23, 2021

"...NEW YORK, NY – The 80's are back. New York City's rising crime and violence will now be joined by legal prostitution as the city's district attorney said his office will no longer prosecute prostitution. Although the laws of the state prohibit prosecution, Mayor Bill DeBlasio's action essentially legalizes the activity in the city of New York. ...the Office's new policy to decline-to-prosecute prostitution and unlicensed massage,...preventing unnecessary future contacts with the criminal justice system, eliminating the collateral consequences associated with having a prostitution case or conviction, and empowering New Yorkers to interact with law enforcement without fear of arrest or deportation. D.A. Vance also moved to dismiss 5,080 Loitering for the Purpose of Prostitution cases, following New York State's repeal of the statute known as "Walking While Trans" earlier this year..." This shows the high prevalence of transgenders leaning on state support systems as they continue (what was often) prison prostitution on the streets, spreading cases of HIV. Shop owners in City - one being a (well-known) homosexual-owned coffee shop - have told me that they are a blight to business in addition to disease & mental health concerns.

"...Black, Brown and East Asian women and girls, immigrants, and LGBTQ+ people have been disproportionately... 'loitering for the purpose of prostitution' and 'unlicensed practice of a profession' ...we will decline to prosecute these arrests outright, providing services and supports solely on a voluntary basis

<https://www.shorenewsnetwork.com/2021/04/23/prostitution-and-massage-parlors-now-legal-in-newyork-city/>

Instead of mandatory testing, temporary cessation of prostitution while imprisoned and appropriate shunting of cases for those who merit juvenile adjudication, all children will be permanently freed to their own youthful devices and tendencies on the streets. Prostitution and drug addicts will not seek help until they are walking **disease-spreader**, bringing communities across Maryland to increased harm and danger. But our neighbors to the north will solidify child trafficking as a workable business model up and down the Mid-Atlantic with this bill. Children will increasingly be trafficked across state lines and - with our porous national borders - in and out of the country when police don't

arrest children caught up in the sex trade. "Philadelphia has the fourth highest transmission rate with 2,827 per 100,000 inhabitants. Jackson, Mississippi, **Baltimore, Maryland** and San Francisco, California occupy the top three spots. Chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis are the three sexually transmitted diseases with the highest growth in infections. Together, they increased by nearly 30% between 2015 and 2019. Within the top 20 cities with the most infections, New York has the most HIV cases (97,206), Atlanta followed with 31,833, Miami..."

<https://www.aldianews.com/leadership/advocacy/std-numbers-us>

These increases in New York happened directly as a result of such laxity as seen in the Sponsor's bill. "Health Department Reports an Increase in Sexually Transmitted Infections in New York City From 2019 to 2020 ... Primary and secondary syphilis diagnoses increased among both men and women; gonorrhea diagnoses increased among women from 2019 to 2020..."

October 13, 2021 — The Health Department today released preliminary data on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in 2019 and 2020 in New York City. According to the New York City STI Surveillance Data Report (PDF), from 2019 to 2020, rates of primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis – the stages during which syphilis is most infectious – increased 9% for men and 24% for women, rates of gonorrhea increased 5% for women and decreased 19% for men..."

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/about/press/pr2021/health-department-reports-increase-in-sti.page>

<https://blackdoctor.org/cities-with-the-most-stds/>

<https://rollingout.com/2021/08/14/this-list-of-cities-with-the-highest-std-transmission-rates-maysurprise-you/>

I strongly urge an unfavorable. Quit allowing these misguided bills which remove pinch points which can straighten out our fatherless children. And, if you wish to prevent their interaction with the criminal justice system in the first place, take heed with the many ways we bring to reduce fatherlessness each year.

Humbly

~vince