



**Working to end sexual violence in Maryland**

P.O. Box 8782  
Silver Spring, MD 20907  
Phone: 301-565-2277  
Fax: 301-565-3619

For more information contact:  
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire  
443-995-5544  
[www.mcasa.org](http://www.mcasa.org)

**Testimony Supporting House Bill 1053**  
**Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel**  
March 8, 2023

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 CAAST project – the Coordinated Action Against Sex Trafficking. CAAST is a statewide project to develop services for survivors of sex trafficking. It includes a network of rape crisis centers, the Sexual Assault Legal Institute, and other service providers striving to create comprehensive services for sex trafficking survivors across the State of Maryland. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 1053.

**House Bill 1053 – Department of Transportation  
Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Prevention**

House Bill 1053 requires the Department of Transportation to develop and implement a training program for transportation-sector employees on the identification and reporting of suspected child exploitation and human trafficking victims. Truck stops can provide child runaways and others at risk of trafficking with convenient stops, and also provide a place slightly secluded from public view. Truck stops can also provide opportunities to pick up, drop off, or stop for paid sex with children. These victims even have a name, and are referred to as “Lot Lizards” in the trucking community. Though most of the trucking industry is not involved in the sex trade, there unfortunately are consumers that fuel the trafficking. It has been reported that buyers use indicators such as stickers, flashing headlights, and code words such as “commercial” to indicate their interest. Massage parlors located at truck stops have also been known to be covers for sex trafficking businesses. This bill responds to these practices and will help educate those working in the transit business to identify and prevent child exploitation and human trafficking.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the  
Judiciary Committee to  
report favorably on House Bill 1053**