



TESTIMONY FOR HB0754
Criminal Law - Sex Trafficking - Felony

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Crosby

Committee: Judiciary

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0754 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Sex trafficking should be a felony. We should do as much as possible to ensure that anyone who traffics another person and destroys their life should be in prison for as long as possible. There should be no world in which people can prey upon other people without dire consequences.

This bill reclassifies the activities involved in sex trafficking as a felony instead of a misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$15,000 and a prison sentence of up to 25 years. It also provides a defense for the victims of sex trafficking who are forced to commit crimes.

We applaud this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.