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—  
*Vice Chair*  
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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 754: Criminal Law - Sex Trafficking - Felony**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Delegate Brian Crosby, and I am here to present HB 754: Criminal Law - Sex Trafficking - Felony.

The intention of this bill is to make it easier to prosecute people who commit sex trafficking crimes, and for their punishment to fit the heinousness of their crimes, while protecting people who enter into sex work voluntarily and people who themselves are survivors of sex trafficking. I am submitting an amendment that will maintain the intention of the bill, but which will bring about the desired result in a different way.

The amended bill will combine labor trafficking and sex trafficking under the same subsection in code. This will allow the existing definition of coercion to apply to both types of human trafficking. This will aid prosecutors in their work, and potentially lead to the identification of additional labor trafficking cases.

I have assembled a panel of witnesses who are experts on this subject matter area, including prosecutors. They will be happy to answer your technical questions about the language of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. I respectfully request a favorable report.