



**Working to end sexual violence in Maryland**

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**Testimony Supporting House Bill 148**  
**Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel**  
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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 Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI) which provides direct legal services to survivors, including sex trafficking survivors. 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 148.

**House Bill 148 – Department of Transportation**  
**Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Prevention**

House Bill 148 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 148**