



Maryland
Hospital Association

January 31, 2024

To: The Honorable William C. Smith Jr., Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Re: Letter of Information - Senate Bill 153- Department of Transportation - Human Trafficking Awareness, Training and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)

Dear Chair Smith:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 62 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 153.

Maryland's hospital employees often serve as the first line of defense to identify signs and symptoms of human trafficking.

Forensic nurse examiners (FNEs) across the state provide trauma informed care to survivors of sexual assault, abuse, neglect and interpersonal violence, and human trafficking. Most FNEs work in [hospital-based sexual assault forensic medical programs](#).

MHA partnered with the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force's medical subcommittee and the University of Maryland SAFE Center in 2020 to update the state's [Human Trafficking: Guidelines for Health Care Providers](#). MHA also partnered with the SAFE Center to train health care providers in hospitals across the state.

Sexual assault and human trafficking are widespread in Maryland and across the country. Education on prevention, identification, and response can empower individuals so they too can serve as a line of defense. We appreciate the opportunity to provide information on Maryland hospitals' response to support human trafficking training and prevention.

For more information, please contact:

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