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Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Room 101
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB0508: Children - Labor Trafficking

Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland Psychological Association, (MPA), which represents over 1,000 doctoral-level psychologists throughout the state, asks the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to report FAVORABLY on HB0508.

As approximately half of minors who are trafficked are trafficked by parents and other family members, it is vitally important that precautions are taken to avoid reunification with those family members. The additional provision in this bill to provide services for those children under the Safe Harbor Act will be incredibly helpful, as it will surround them with a variety of services to support them after they have been removed from an incredibly traumatic situation.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB0508. If we can be of any further assistance as the Judiciary Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Stephanie Wolf at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Corrado, Psy.D.

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.

Brian Corrado, Psy.D.
President
Committee

Stephanie Wolf, JD, Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs