

SB0007_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON SB#0007 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Department of Transportation – Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response
(See Someone, Save Someone Act)

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of/ SB#/0007, **Department of Transportation – Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)**

This bill acknowledges the depth and breath of a problem within our society and our state and proposes specific solutions Maryland can implement to address it. The Federal Government FEMA has identified *5 Ways We Can Work Together to Prevent Human Trafficking*¹ The United States Department of State has focused on the problem, suggesting *20 Ways You Can Help Fight Human Trafficking*² Maryland can respond positively and be a leader in combatting the problem via education to persons who are in positions to recognize and prevent it.

The bill will require the Maryland Department of Transportation to develop or identify and implement a certain training program for transportation sector employees on the identification and reporting of suspected human trafficking victims. It mandates recertification of trained individuals, requiring transportation sector employers to certify by January 1, 2026, and each year thereafter that certain employees have completed the training program. It ensures and requires that all new employees are mandated to receive training within 90 days of hiring. The bill also offers legal protections to persons that, on recognition and reporting of potential trafficking offenses those reporters will not face civil and criminal liability for reporting of suspected trafficking.

This bill will further the efforts Maryland has been undertaking in this area as outlined and reported in the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, Statewide Human Trafficking Response Director, 2024 Annual Report.³

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0007.

¹ <https://www.fema.gov/blog/5-ways-we-can-work-together-prevent-human-trafficking>

² <https://www.state.gov/20-ways-you-can-help-fight-human-trafficking/>

³ <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/EX-ORD-01.01.2018.19-B-GOCPP-Statewide-Human-Trafficking-Response-Director-2024-Annual-Report.pdf>