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January 22, 2025

**TO:** The Honorable Will Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Adam Spangler  
Legislative Aide, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** Senate Bill 7 – Department of Transportation – Human Trafficking  
Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act) –  
**Support In Concept**

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The Office of Attorney General (OAG) supports the intent of **Senate Bill 7**, Senator Michael Jackson’s legislation to raise awareness of child exploitation and human trafficking amongst transportation sector employees and contractors.

According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, “[s]ex trafficking occurs at truck stops in the United States often into forms, through commercial sex and through fake massage businesses.”<sup>1</sup> Similarly, according to the American Association of Airport Executives, “[t]he first step in combating human trafficking is learning to spot warning signs, and travel industry employees should participate in training seminars tailored to them. Airport, airline, and security personnel who have completed human trafficking awareness training is a vital first line of defense in the effort to prevent this crime.”<sup>2</sup> **Senate Bill 7** can greatly heighten awareness and, through associated reporting, improve public safety.

While the OAG supports the intent of Senate Bill 7, we have concerns about the implementation of the bill.

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<sup>1</sup> National Human Trafficking Hotline: Truck Stop-Based, available online at: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/sex-trafficking-venuesindustries/truck-stop-based> (last visited Feb. 5, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> American Association of Airport Executives: Human Trafficking Research, available online at: <https://aaae.org/humantrafficking> (last visited Feb. 5, 2024).

**Senate Bill 7** contains several ambiguities, including the description of the individuals and entities in subsection (b) to whom the bill applies, as well as the responsibilities of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), MDOT modal administrations, and State contractors regarding training, certifications, policies, reporting procedures, and reports under subsections (c)-(e). There is also uncertainty about whether the training requirements and immunity provisions in subsections (c)-(f) are applicable to all MDOT and contractor employees or only those identified in subsection (b). Additionally, the term “designated regional navigator” is not defined in subsection (e), leading to further confusion. Lastly, there are concerns surrounding the potentially overbroad immunity provisions in subsection (f) and their compatibility with the Tort Claims Act, particularly regarding the extension of immunity to the State rather than just individual employees or private entities.

While recognizing our concerns, we support the intent of this legislation. The OAG respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on **Senate Bill 7**.

CC: The Honorable Senator Michael Jackson  
Judicial Proceedings Committee Members