

2025-01-22 SB 7 - Support in Concept.pdf

Uploaded by: Adam Spangler

Position: FAV



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STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General

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

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.”¹ 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.”² **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.

¹ 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).

² 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

SB7

Uploaded by: Camila Reynolds-Dominguez

Position: FAV



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**LETTER OF SUPPORT
HOUSE BILL 1 & SENATE BILL 7**

February 18, 2025

Chair Korman and Chair Smith:

On behalf of the LGBTQ+ Caucus, we are writing to express our support of **HB1/SB7: Department of Transportation - Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)**. As advocates and stewards of the LGBTQ+ community, we believe this bill will protect, strengthen, and secure LGBTQ+ rights for all LGBTQ+ residents. The benefits and effects of passing the proposed legislation will create a positive and long-lasting change for all of Maryland.

HB1/SB7 trains Maryland Department of Transportation Employees on how to recognize and report the signs of human trafficking. Human trafficking affects everyone. LGBTQ youths are at a high risk of being trafficked as they are a vulnerable population and predatory entities. 20-40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ, and out of that population, roughly 40% report being trafficked. 33% of human trafficking takes place on mass transit systems. If mass transit employees are trained to recognize human trafficking, perhaps we can help prevent the trafficking of LGBTQ youth.

Thank you for considering the bill's positive effects on the LGBTQ+ community. Please contact us with any additional questions or concerns about the bill. We appreciate your efforts in fostering community and furthering rights for all Marylanders.

Respectfully,

Delegate Kris Fair
Chair

SB007 HB0001 Human Trafficking Awareness, Training

Uploaded by: Catherine OMalley

Position: FAV

BILL NO: Senate Bill 0007
TITLE: Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response
(See Someone, Save Someone Act)
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE: January 22, 2025
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

Senate Bill 0007 requires the Department of Transportation to develop and implement a training program for transportation sector employees on the identification and reporting of suspected human trafficking victims. This is a critical step forward in addressing the pervasive issue of human trafficking, which disproportionately impacts women and girls, particularly from marginalized communities.

By mandating the Maryland Department of Transportation to create a training program for transportation employees, SB0007 ensures that those with public-facing and high-traffic roles —such as drivers, station personnel, and security staff—are not only aware of the signs of trafficking but also understand their legal and ethical obligations to intervene and report. The requirement for training to be completed annually and within 90 days of hiring ensures that the workforce remains vigilant and educated on the latest methods of trafficking, which frequently evolve. Furthermore, SB0007 removes civil and criminal liability for reporting suspected trafficking, which provides critical legal protection for those who take action in good faith, ensuring that employees are not deterred by fear of repercussions.

Engagement at truck stops is a good example of how DoT employees can reduce the likelihood that vulnerable individuals, including runaway children, become easy targets for trafficking. These locations offer a degree of privacy, making it easier for traffickers to exploit their victims. While the majority of the trucking industry is not involved in sex trafficking, there are consumers who drive this illicit trade.

This bill addresses these alarming practices by mandating training for those working in the transportation sector to help them identify, report, and prevent human trafficking. SB0007 recognizes the structural power imbalances that allow trafficking to flourish and seeks to empower ordinary citizens—specifically those working in transportation—to be proactive agents in combating this common form of gender-based violence. By mandating training and establishing clear reporting mechanisms, the bill fosters a culture of accountability and care, where the safety and dignity of women and vulnerable individuals are prioritized.

In sum, SB0007 is not only a necessary measure to combat human trafficking but a critical tool to prevent exploitation, protect survivors, and create safer communities for all.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, legal services organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. It advocates for the rights of women through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change, working to ensure physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy for women in Maryland.

SB7 Women Legislators of Maryland

Uploaded by: Dana Jones

Position: FAV

DEL. DANA JONES, DISTRICT 30A
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At Large

WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

January 28, 2025

To: Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus is proud to express our **unanimous support for SB 7: See Someone, Save Someone Act**. This vital piece of legislation trains Department of Transportation employees to recognize the signs of human trafficking and equips them with the knowledge and tools to take appropriate action.

Human trafficking is a heinous crime that disproportionately impacts women and girls, accounting for a significant majority of trafficking victims globally and domestically. Traffickers exploit vulnerabilities, using coercion, manipulation, and violence to trap individuals in a cycle of abuse. Maryland, with its location along major transportation routes and proximity to international airports, is particularly susceptible to human trafficking activity.

By providing targeted training to Department of Transportation employees—the individuals most likely to encounter trafficking victims at critical transit points—we can significantly enhance our ability to identify and intervene in these cases. SB 7 represents a proactive, compassionate step toward combating human trafficking in Maryland and protecting some of our most vulnerable residents.

We respectfully urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report** for SB 7. Together, we can ensure Maryland remains at the forefront of efforts to end human trafficking and protect the dignity and rights of all individuals in our state.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to improving the lives of Maryland's residents.

SB7

Uploaded by: David Pendleton

Position: FAV

DAVID PENDELTON SR.
Chairperson/Director

TOM CAHILL
Vice Chairperson/Assistant
Director

BRITTANY GARRIS
Secretary



ANNAPOLIS OFFICE
99 Cathedral Street
Suite 201
Annapolis, MD 21401-2597

PH: (240) 271-9420
smartmdsla@yahoo.com

**SB 7 - Department of Transportation – Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response
(See Someone, Save Someone Act)**

Judiciary Proceedings
Maryland Senate
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher and Members of the Committee

My name is David Pendleton, I am the Director of the Maryland Safety and Legislative Board of the Transportation Division of SMART. We represent transportation-sector employees who work for MARC and Amtrak in commuter and long-distance service. I am urging a favorable report on **SB7**, the “**see someone - save someone act.**”

SB7 would require the Maryland Department of Transportation to develop and implement a training program for our members employed in the transportation-sector on the identification and reporting of human trafficking. According to the State Department, “there are 27.6 million people globally who are subjected to human trafficking and forced labor. It’s responsible for an estimated \$150 billion annually in illicit profits. Human trafficking disproportionately impacts some of the most vulnerable and underserved members of our society. It erodes the safety and health of our communities and transportation networks, the security of our borders, the strength of our economy, and the rule of law.”

A 2018 Polaris Project study of 104 survivors found that 11% of human trafficking victims are transported on long-distance Amtrak Trains, and 29% on subway/commuter rail. The study also found that “the use of buses and trains may be a preferred method of transportation for traffickers because of the low cost and limited interaction with bureaucratic systems. This allows them more anonymity in the ticket buying process and less attention from officials.”

Our members who work in commuter and passenger service are the first responders to any issues experienced with operations. They are in constant contact with the traveling public and are vigilant in observing their surroundings. With the proper training they can be a great asset in the fight against human trafficking. Human trafficking is a heinous crime that has no boundaries. It is perpetrated on its victims from small towns to large cities and everywhere in between. Prevention requires action and the more employees are trained in recognizing and reporting these acts the easier it is for them to “**see someone - save someone.**”

Governor Moore, in his 2024 State of the State speech, called for action on public safety as one of his top priorities. Nothing is more important than protecting the citizens of this state from criminals, especially our children.

SMART proudly supports this bill and emphatically urges a favorable report on SB7!

Sincerely,

David Sr

David Pendleton Sr., Chairperson/Director
Maryland Safety & Legislative Board, LO-023
SMART Transportation Division

Maryland Catholic Conference_FAV_SB7.pdf

Uploaded by: Diane Arias

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

January 22, 2025

Senate Bill 7

**Department of Transportation – Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 7 requires the Maryland Department of Transportation to develop or identify and implement a training program for transportation sector employees on the identification and reporting of suspected human trafficking victims; requiring transportation sector employers to certify by January 1, 2026, and each year thereafter that certain employees have completed the training program; requiring new employees to receive training within 90 days of hiring; removing civil and criminal liability for reporting of suspected trafficking.

The MCC supports this bill because it emphasizes the importance of training programs to educate individuals in the transportation sector on how to identify and report human trafficking. Such training is critical for reducing the prevalence of trafficking, aiding law enforcement in their efforts to combat this crime and increasing public awareness about how to assist in the fight against trafficking.

Maryland's central location makes it a significant hub for human trafficking, serving as both a pass-through state and a destination for traffickers. Traffickers frequently utilize Maryland's extensive transportation network, including major highways like Interstate 95, to connect victims to large East Coast cities such as New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. Incidents of sex trafficking have been identified at Maryland truck stops, with data from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center indicating that approximately 70% of trafficking cases in the U.S. occur at truck stops.¹

¹ <http://www.mdhumantrafficking.org/maryland>

Recent cases illustrate how transportation hubs facilitate trafficking. For example, in a 2024 case in Maryland, a trafficker recruited women in Hagerstown transported them across Maryland to Baltimore and exploited them in hotels near BWI Marshall Airport and local stadiums.² These examples underscore the critical need for targeted training and awareness initiatives. Pope Francis has repeatedly condemned the atrocity of human trafficking, calling it “an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ.”³ This bill is a significant step forward in addressing the exploitation of vulnerable individuals by equipping key sectors with the tools to recognize and prevent trafficking. It represents a meaningful contribution to the fight against child exploitation and human trafficking in Maryland.

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference asks for a favorable report on **SB 7**.

Thank you for your consideration.

² <https://mcase.org/news/post/maryland-sex-trafficking-case-shows-typical-red-flags-for-exploitation-expe>

³ https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2014/april/documents/papa-francesco_20140410_tratta-persone-umane.html

SB 7 - MNADV - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Laure Ruth

Position: FAV



BILL NO: Senate Bill 7
TITLE: Department of Transportation – Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE: January 22, 2025
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the COMMITTEE to favorably Report on SB7.**

Senate Bill 7 requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), in consultation with stakeholders, to develop or identify and implement a training program that includes a curriculum on the identification and reporting of suspected human trafficking. MDOT would be required to establish a human trafficking reporting process, to provide training to its employees within certain time periods and certify such training has occurred. It must also establish a human trafficking prevention policy as well as offer public service information as it is able.

Maryland's location on the I-95 corridor makes it a part of the broad human trafficking that occurs on the eastern seaboard. A program that increases awareness of and trains about prevention of human trafficking is important. Employees of MDOT should have the tools to recognize suspected human trafficking and have a policy for what to do if they suspect it. Other agencies in Maryland are required to do this and it makes sense for MDOT to as well.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB7.**

For further information contact Laure Ruth ■ Public Policy Director ■ 301-852-3930 ■ lruth@mnadv.org

1997 Annapolis Exchange Parkway, Suite 300 ■ Annapolis, MD 21401
Tel: 301-429-3601 ■ E-mail: info@mnadv.org ■ Website: www.mnadv.org

Trafficking - truckers - testimony - senate - 2025

Uploaded by: Lisae C Jordan

Position: FAV



Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

P.O. Box 8782
Silver Spring, MD 20907
Phone: 301-565-2277
Fax: 301-565-3619

For more information contact:
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire
443-995-5544
www.mcasa.org

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 7
Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel
January 22, 2025

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 Judicial Proceedings Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 7.

Senate Bill 7 – Department of Transportation
See Someone, Save Someone - Human Trafficking Prevention

Senate Bill 7 requires the Department of Transportation to develop and implement a training program for transportation-sector employees on the identification and reporting of suspected human trafficking victims. Truck stops can provide 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, including with children and adults. 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 human trafficking.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the
Judicial Proceedings Committee to
report favorably on Senate Bill 7**

SB0007 1:22:2025 Written Testimony .pdf

Uploaded by: Lynn Mortoro

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0007
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION-Human Trafficking Awareness,
Training and Response.**

(See Someone, Save Someone Act)

Requiring 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. Requires certification of training and when new employees are to complete the initial training. It removes civil and criminal liability for reporting.

FAVORABLE

TO: Judicial Proceedings Committee Chair Senator William C. Smith Jr, Vice Chair Senator Jeff Waldstreicher and all Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Lynn R. Mortoro, Member of Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN)

DATE: January 22, 2025

Chair Smith and Vice Chair Waldstreicher and all members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in favor of SB0007.

The position of the Episcopal Church is that it is time to end human trafficking. The Church has long supported legislation which aims to combat human trafficking. The training of people who are in positions to observe and report possible victims absolutely falls into the category of helping to end this nightmare for so many victims, most of whom are women and children.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report.

SB72025Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV

MICHAEL A. JACKSON
Legislative District 27
Calvert, Charles and
Prince George's Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Pensions

Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment



Annapolis Office
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3700 • 301-858-3700
800-492-7122 Ext. 3700
Michael.Jackson@senate.state.md.us

District Office
250 Merrimac Court
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 7

***DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION –
HUMAN TRAFFICKING, TRAINING, AND RESPONSE
(SEE SOMEONE, SAVE SOMEONE ACT)***

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

JANUARY 22, 2025

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 7 is a straight-forward piece of legislation designed to combat child exploitation and human trafficking in our communities and to equip employees working with the Maryland Department of Transportation with the information necessary to recognize the signs of these crimes.

This bill would require the Maryland Department of Transportation to put in place both a human trafficking recognition education training program curriculum (offering guidance to employees and contractors of Maryland transit agencies, taxicab drivers, and transportation network operators on ways to recognize and respond to the signs associated with human trafficking) and a reporting procedure to when such crimes are recognized. Additionally, the bill would require (when practicable) audible public service announcements throughout Maryland transit stations, airports, port facilities, and highway rest stops.

As someone who spent the majority of his professional career in law enforcement, and as someone who personally worked to stop these types of crimes as Prince George's County Sheriff, I am confident that this legislation will provide a means to protect some of those victimized by this hidden and heinous crime in our State.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 7.

SB0007-JPR-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 0007

January 22, 2025

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 0007 – Department of Transportation – Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)

POSITION: Support

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 7.

SB 7 requires the Maryland Department of Transportation to train certain transportation sector employees on the identification and reporting of suspected human trafficking victims. Training is vital because human trafficking often occurs in public spaces where transportation employees interact with potential victims. This training can help to identify and stop human trafficking and child exploitation, thus saving and changing lives. This bill also includes liability protections, which will encourage proactive reporting, fostering a culture of vigilance and support for victims.

The City of Baltimore has seen higher rates of victim identification through increased trainings for public service employees and the posting of signage displaying the National Human Trafficking Hotline in locations such as hotel rooms and rest stops. Victims of human trafficking and child exploitation, in Baltimore City and beyond, are often forced to travel to and from locations via buses. Public transit offers traffickers low-cost travel options as well as the ability to go undetected by enforcement officers. Transportation sector employees are uniquely positioned to recognize signs of distress or suspicious behavior that may indicate trafficking. With proper training, they can become vigilant victim advocates, providing timely assistance and intervention.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 7.

Testimony in support of SB0007 - DOT – Human Traff

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0007_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

01/22/2025

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

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>

SB 7 - UMSWASC Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: UM SWASC

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL SB 7

Department of Transportation - Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)

Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 20, 2025

Social Work Advocates for Social Change strongly supports SB 7, which requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to implement a training program for transportation sector employees to identify and report suspected human trafficking victims. This vital legislation is a powerful step toward addressing the pervasive crime of human trafficking, also referred to as modern-day slavery.ⁱ

Human trafficking is pervasive in Maryland and across the country. In 2023, the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) received 30,162 reports of suspected human trafficking, leading to 9,619 confirmed cases impacting 16,999 victims; in Maryland alone, 501 reports were made, resulting in 152 cases.ⁱⁱ These numbers only represent a fraction of the true scale of trafficking in our state, as many victims remain reluctant to come forward, unaware of available resources, or trapped by the secretive nature of trafficking operations.

Human trafficking preys upon society's most vulnerable, including children in the foster care system.ⁱⁱⁱ Human traffickers target children, and up to 70% of trafficked minors in the U.S. come from child social services or foster care.^{iv} Between 2014 and 2019, Maryland's local social services departments reported over 670 child sex trafficking cases—93% of which involved female victims, 87% involved youth aged 14-17, and more than half were people of color.^v

Maryland's extensive transportation infrastructure—encompassing thousands of bus stops, 33 light rail stations, 14 metro stations, 10+ rest stops, 5 Amtrak stations, Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, and the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore—**makes it a key location for human trafficking activities.**^{vi} SB 7 leverages this reality to safeguard vulnerable individuals by engaging the transportation sector as a critical ally in the fight against trafficking.

SB 7 will help thwart human trafficking by training transportation sector employees to identify potential victims and connect them with vital resources, without exposing them to law enforcement—an essential consideration for undocumented individuals. By tapping into the Regional Navigator program, this bill offers a proactive solution for combatting human trafficking.

This bill builds on efforts in California and New York and complements federal law, such as the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), which mandates airline carriers to train employees on identifying and responding to human trafficking.

With SB 7, Maryland has an important opportunity to protect its most marginalized residents and take a decisive stand against human trafficking.

Social Work Advocates for Social Change urges a favorable report on SB 7.

Social Work Advocates for Social Change is a coalition of MSW students at the University of Maryland School of Social Work that seeks to promote equity and justice through public policy, and to engage the communities impacted by public policy in the policymaking process.

ⁱ U.S. Department of State. (2019, June). Trafficking in Persons Report June 2019. United States Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>

ⁱⁱ National Human Trafficking Hotline. (2023). National Statistics. Humantraffickinghotline.org. <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/statistics>

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Department of State. (2019, June). Trafficking in Persons Report June 2019. United States Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>

^{iv} U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking. (2022). U.S. Institute against Human Trafficking. <https://www.usiaht.org>

^v About Child Sex Trafficking. (n.d.). Araminta. Retrieved January 15, 2025, from <https://aramintausa.org/about-child-sex-trafficking/>

^{vi} Human Trafficking - Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. (n.d.). Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. Retrieved January 15, 2025, from <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/victim-services/human-trafficking/>

SB 7 - Department of Transportation – Human Trafficking

Uploaded by: Michael McMillan

Position: FWA

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300

126 W. 25th Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218
Telephone: 410-889-3566 Facsimile: 410-243-5541
www.atu1300.org

Proudly representing the transit workers of the MTA!



SB 7 - Department of Transportation – Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act) - Favorable w/ Amendments

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

January 22nd, 2025

ATU Local 1300 represents over 3,000 transit workers at the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). Our members keep Maryland moving every day.

We strongly support efforts to combat human trafficking. The forward facing role transit professionals have means that we see and interact with the riding public every day. Our only note on SB 7 is that it does not clarify that the mandatory training would occur while on paid time and on the clock. This is not an issue for MTA workers who have the protections of a collective bargaining agreement, but multiple MDOT transit contractors do not have unions and therefore have no guarantee that training required for their jobs are compensated.

To ensure that these trainings are given the proper attention and supervision that they deserve, we urge you to amend the bill to clarify that the required training should be conducted during paid work time, regardless of whether they are a contractor or state employee.