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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