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FOR ALL SEASONS
Behavioral Health & Rape Crisis Center
— *Your Story Matters* —

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February 9, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Wilkins, Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committees:

For All Seasons writes in support of HB355/SB254, a common-sense update to Maryland's existing sexual abuse prevention curriculum.

Grades 6–8 represent a critical developmental window. During these years, many Maryland children begin traveling to school independently, using social media with less supervision, and spending more time online. Unfortunately, this is also when young people become more vulnerable to online exploitation and human trafficking.

According to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 1 in 6 endangered runaways reported in 2023 were likely victims of sex trafficking, with the average age of entry between 12 and 14 years old, precisely the age group covered by this legislation.

HB355/SB254 strengthens student safety by adding age-appropriate trafficking awareness content to an already required abuse-prevention program. More importantly, this can be accomplished without adding instructional time or imposing new costs on local school systems. Maryland's children deserve protection wherever they are and this equips students with knowledge that can help prevent exploitation before it occurs.

For these reasons, For All Seasons respectfully urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB355/SB254.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Kay Weber
Chief Strategy Officer