

DEL. DANA JONES, DISTRICT 30A
President

DEL. MICHELE GUYTON, DISTRICT 42B
1st Vice-President

DEL. JENNIFER WHITE HOLLAND, DISTRICT 10
2nd Vice-President

DEL. SARAH WOLEK, DISTRICT 16
Secretary



DEL. LINDA FOLEY, DISTRICT 15
Treasurer

DEL. KAREN R. TOLES, DISTRICT 25
Parliamentarian

DEL. JACQUELINE T. ADDISON, DISTRICT 45
At Large

DEL. KYM TAYLOR, DISTRICT 23
At Large

WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Monday, March 23, 2025

To: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair

Delegate Michele Guyton, Vice Chair

Environment and Transportation Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus proudly expresses its support for **SB 0473 – Public Utilities – For-Hire Drivers and Transportation Network Operators – Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Training and Liability.**

SB 0473 takes a critical step in addressing human trafficking by equipping for-hire drivers and transportation network operators with the tools and knowledge necessary to recognize and respond to suspected trafficking situations. These drivers are uniquely positioned on the front lines, often interacting with individuals who may be at risk. Ensuring they are properly trained strengthens Maryland's ability to identify and prevent trafficking in real time.

The bill requires applicants for certain for-hire driver's licenses to complete a human trafficking awareness training program and submit verification to the Public Service Commission. This requirement helps establish a consistent, statewide standard for awareness and preparedness among drivers operating in both traditional and app-based transportation services.

Equally important, SB 0473 provides critical legal protections for drivers who act in good faith. By shielding licensed taxicab drivers, for-hire drivers, and transportation network operators from civil or criminal liability when reporting or responding to suspected human trafficking, the bill removes a significant barrier to action. These protections ensure that individuals can report concerns without fear, ultimately encouraging timely and potentially life-saving intervention.

By prioritizing both education and protection, SB 0473 strengthens Maryland's broader efforts to combat human trafficking and safeguard vulnerable populations. This legislation reflects a proactive and practical approach to public safety and aligns with the Maryland Women's Caucus' commitment to protecting and advancing the well-being of women and families across the state.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus respectfully urges a favorable report on SB 0473.