

HB0771 crossover bill - FAV - Health Occupations -

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

HB0771_CrossoverBill_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

03/25/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL HB#0771- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Health Occupations - Human Trafficking Awareness Training

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of crossover bill HB#0771, **Health Occupations - Human Trafficking Awareness Training**

This bill believes that more education on what constitutes human trafficking can help people dealing with the problem become not only more cognizant of it but receive continuing education credits pursuing that learning.

The bill directs that each health occupations board shall adopt regulations that allow an applicant seeking license or certificate renewal to receive continuing education credits for completing a human trafficking awareness training program. The boards will also conduct outreach to make individuals regulated by the various boards aware of human trafficking awareness training options, including by providing information in general board communications and on the board's website. The legislation places requirements on the training processes and procedures.

This important bill will require each health occupations board to adopt certain regulations related to continuing education credits for a certain human trafficking awareness training program on or before October 1, 2026; and establishing requirements for the training program.

I respectfully request this committee to return a favorable report on crossover bill HB#0771.

2026 ACNM HB 771 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: House Bill 771 – Health Occupations – Human Trafficking Awareness Training

Hearing Date: March 25, 2026

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) supports *House Bill 771 – Health Occupations – Human Trafficking Awareness Training*. Human trafficking awareness training has been demonstrated to increase healthcare practitioners' ability to identify and respond to suspected human trafficking case.¹ Maryland has a high rate of human trafficking cases because of the Interstate 95 corridor. In 2021, the National Human Trafficking Hotline reported 751 cases in Maryland, but these numbers are underreported.² With appropriate training, healthcare practitioners can increase the number of cases reported and help connect suspected survivors of human trafficking to appropriate resources.

We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

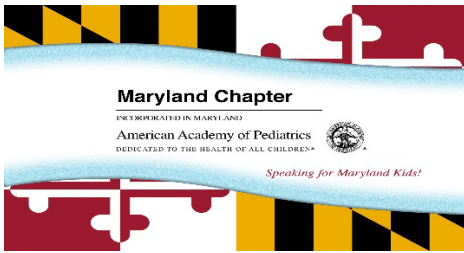
¹ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8132095/>

² <https://mhaonline.org/caring-for-communities/public-health/human-trafficking-prevention/>

HB0771 - Senate_FWA_MDAAP_Health Occs. - Human Tra

Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FWA



Senate Finance Committee

March 25, 2026

House Bill 771 – *Health Occupations – Human Trafficking Awareness Training*

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support with amendment** for House Bill 771.

As written, House Bill 771 requires each health occupations board to adopt regulations allowing continuing education credit for a human trafficking awareness training program that is at least one hour long, provided at no cost, and approved by the Department of Health in consultation with the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force and survivor service providers. The training must cover the definition of human trafficking, trauma-informed care principles, indicators in health care settings, appropriate screening protocols, and reporting requirements under State law.

We recommend broadening the training to also include child maltreatment recognition, reporting, and trauma-informed response. Child victims are often at risk for both abuse and trafficking, and including such instruction would strengthen provider competency and reporting protections across these overlapping areas.

Interstate 95 is a major trafficking corridor through Maryland, which increases the likelihood that victims, including children, will encounter physicians and other health care providers while in transit, often presenting with injuries or conditions linked to exploitation. Training on child maltreatment alongside human trafficking would equip providers to recognize overlapping signs of abuse, deliver trauma-informed care, and ensure that vulnerable minors receive immediate protection and appropriate reporting, reinforcing the safety net for children at the intersection of trafficking and abuse.

The AAP has published policy and clinical guidance on [*Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Children and Adolescents*](#), emphasizing the pediatrician's role in identifying and caring for trafficked children using a trauma-informed approach. These resources support the inclusion of child maltreatment training as part of House Bill 771's continuing education requirements. With the amendment noted, MDAAP urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone

J. Steven Wise

Danna L. Kauffman

Andrew G. Vetter

410-244-7000

HB 771 - FIN - Various boards - REVISED SWA.docx (

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Position: FWA



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

Maryland Health Occupations Boards
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Maryland Board of Dental Examiners
Spring Grove Hospital Center, Rush Bldg.
55 Wade Avenue/Tulip Drive
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Maryland Board of Nursing
4140 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice
55 Wade Avenue, Tuerk Bldg. – 2nd floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21228

2026 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: HB 771
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Support with Amendments

TITLE: HB 771 – Health Occupations - Human Trafficking Awareness Training

BILL ANALYSIS: This Bill will require each health occupations board to adopt certain regulations related to continuing education credits for a certain human trafficking awareness training program on or before January 1, 2027; and establishing requirements for the training program.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Maryland Board of Acupuncture, the Maryland Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the Maryland Board of Dental Examiners, the Maryland Board of Massage Therapy Examiners, the Maryland Board of Nursing, the Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice, the Maryland Board of Examiners in Optometry, the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, the Maryland Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners, and the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the “Boards”) respectfully

submit this letter of support with amendments for HB 771 Health Occupations - Human Trafficking Awareness Training.

The Boards support the intent of HB 771 and recognize the importance of human trafficking awareness training for healthcare professionals given their proximity to vulnerable populations. Though there is still much more to be done, in recent years patient safety networks have developed procedures for addressing human trafficking when they encounter it, and nursing education programs, as well as other health occupation professions, often address the topic in their curriculum. Furthermore, we believe continuing education (CE) on the most recent developments in addressing human trafficking in the healthcare arena is an important step to eliminating the practice in the State altogether.

However, despite its passage in the House, the Boards continue to have concerns regarding the regulatory mandate in this Bill. More specifically, requiring the Boards add an *optional, unmandated* course to their regulations could potentially cause confusion for licensees and stakeholders, and it will not increase the likelihood that licensees will take the course. The Boards vary in their existing CE structures, and so courses, not required by law, are typically not listed in regulations. These courses can change and having to go through the many months required to promulgate regulations for each change would be unreasonable and impractical. An alternative solution is for the Boards to post the accepted training on their websites as a part of the required outreach along with free accepted courses approved by the Department. No change to regulations would be required to implement this solution.

Therefore, the Boards respectfully encourages **two** amendments for the Committee's consideration. The first would remove the regulatory requirement for the Boards, since the sponsor amendment on page 2, line 9 seems to accomplish the goal of HB 771 to allow the human trafficking awareness training to count towards continuing education credits. The second amendment removes the deadline for completion of regulations by January 1, 2027. The specific amendments are below:

- Pg 2, strike line 17
- Pg 3, strike lines 17-19 in their entirety

For all of these reasons, the Boards submit this letter of support with amendments for HB 771 and urge that the Committee adopt these amendments. For more information, please contact Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison for the Health Occupations Boards at 443-794-4757 or lillian.reese@maryland.gov or Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs for the Board of Nursing at 410-585-2049 or mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

HB 771 - FIN- BOP - LOI.docx (1).pdf

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Position: INFO



Board of Physicians

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D., Chair

2026 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO.: House Bill 771
TITLE: Health Occupations - Human Trafficking Awareness Training
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Letter of Information

POSITION AND RATIONALE

The Maryland Board of Physicians (the Board) submits this Letter of Information regarding House Bill (HB) 771, Health Occupations - Human Trafficking Awareness Training. The bill mandates that each health occupations board allow an applicant to receive continuing education credits for completing a specified human trafficking awareness training program. The bill also mandates that each health occupations board adopt regulations and conduct outreach related to continuing education credits for such programs. While the Board recognizes that human trafficking is a serious public health and safety issue, the proposed legislation presents significant operational challenges and raises broader concerns regarding the effectiveness of mandated continuing education requirements.

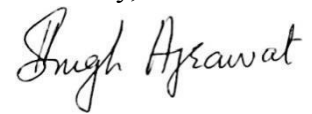
Operationally, the timelines for submitting training approvals and the Board completing regulations are functionally unattainable. The bill's enactment date of June 1, 2026, and the requirement that the Maryland Department of Health approve training by July 1, 2026, leave only one month for program approval. Furthermore, the amended timeline for drafting and submitting regulations by the health occupations boards has only increased minimally. The mandate for the Board to adopt regulations by January 1, 2027, remains difficult to meet given the standard administrative promulgation process, which typically requires six to twelve months from drafting to submission and overview by the Office of Regulation and Policy Coordination, as well as other key leaders in the regulations review process.

Furthermore, the Board continues to seek clarification on the bill's outreach requirements. While the legislation mentions website postings, the broader term "outreach" is undefined and could imply an expectation of significant marketing or educational advertisements that fall outside the Board's primary mission. The Board urges the Committee to consider the impact of continuing education requirements and the professional autonomy of Maryland's healthcare providers.

Utilizing existing renewal requirements for continuing education will allow practitioners to select education most relevant to their specific field of medicine or specialty, rather than emphasizing training that may not be applicable to the field or individual.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information, please contact Oriell Harris, Health Policy Analyst, at the Maryland Board of Physicians, at OriellT.Harris@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harbhajan Ajrawat". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Harbhajan Ajrawat, M.D.
Chair, Maryland Board of Physicians

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