

**Written Testimony on House Bill 1348:
Human Trafficking - Reports to Regional Navigators and Prosecutions – Authorization**
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Hearing Date: March 31, 2026
Position: SUPPORT

My name is Andrea Carroll, and I am the Director of Behavioral Health Services at Everstand. Our organization is based in Baltimore County and has sites across the state of Maryland which offer residential treatment, education, and community-based services to children and families. We operate the Human Trafficking Regional Navigator Program (RNP) for Anne Arundel County and a specialized residential program for female adolescent survivors of sex trafficking in Baltimore County.

I am submitting this written testimony on behalf of Everstand to **request your support of HB1348**, which will allow an additional pathway for child survivors of human trafficking to be connected to the support and services of our state's Regional Navigator Programs.

As it stands, Regional Navigators across the state hear from mandated reporters in schools, hospitals, and other healthcare settings that while their reporting responsibility to Child Protective Services (CPS) or local law enforcement is clear, their ability to report directly to RNPs is less so, resulting in reports to CPS or law enforcement only. While CPS and law enforcement are mandated to refer suspected trafficking cases to RNPs, this process adds an extra step and extra time. **We need to reduce barriers so that child survivors of trafficking get access to care as quickly as possible.**

HB1348 addresses this issue by explicitly allowing mandated reporters to contact Regional Navigators directly, in addition to their required report to CPS or law enforcement. This would create a process for children at risk of trafficking to access services and support more quickly, and **it would ensure that services provided by the Regional Navigators are more comprehensive** as they could include the support of the reporter in whatever setting they encounter the child (e.g. school, hospital, therapy).

Timely access to care and warm hand-offs lead to better outcomes for children who have experienced trafficking. We urge you to vote favorably on HB1348 to create a pathway for mandated reporters to refer to and work directly with Regional Navigator Programs to ensure the best possible outcomes for children at risk for and who are survivors of human trafficking.

Sincerely,



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