



BILL NO: House Bill 1348
TITLE: Human Trafficking - Reports to Regional Navigators and Prosecutions - Authorization
COMMITTEE: **Judicial Proceedings – cross over**
HEARING DATE: March 31, 2026
POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that works to lead diverse community partners toward the common purpose of reducing the occurrence and impact of intimate partner violence. **MNADV urges the House Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 1348.**

HB 1348 provides a life-saving bridge between frontline professionals and the specialized experts equipped to handle child exploitation. By creating a direct channel for mandated reporters—including teachers, clinicians, and law enforcement—to engage Regional Navigators, this bill ensures that suspected sex and labor trafficking are met with an immediate, expert response. Critically, it empowers these professionals to use their best clinical judgment to intervene in high-risk situations, ensuring a child’s safety remains the primary objective even in the most complex circumstances.

We know there is a disconnect in our current system. For example, in western Maryland and Prince George’s County, the data tells a troubling story: many children are suffering in the shadows, with trafficking cases going unreported to the very specialists trained to help. HB 1348 closes this gap. By moving beyond a "one-size-fits-all" reporting model and integrating Regional Navigators into the Family Law framework, we normalize a collaborative, trauma-informed approach. This bill isn't just about reporting; it’s about ensuring that every child trapped in exploitation is met with a survivor-centered safety plan before the cycle of violence becomes unbreakable.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 1348.**