



TESTIMONY FOR HB1348
Human Trafficking - Reports to Regional Navigators and Prosecutions -
Authorization

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Embry

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1348 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Silence allows for so much harm. So many times, when horrible crimes of abuse have been uncovered, particularly against children, people knew or suspected something was wrong and never spoke up, allowing the abuse to continue on and on.

These are the times that we rely on health practitioners, police officers, teachers, and others to speak up and report what they see or suspect to people who can investigate, even without the consent of the child over the objections of a child.

This bill, if enacted, would ask those people to say something to a Regional of suspected sex trafficking or labor trafficking if, in the professional judgment of that person, notification is necessary to prevent serious harm to the child or other children. It also requires a State's Attorney or the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute any violation they discover.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.