

**Favorable Response to HB165 Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention
Program - Human and Sex Trafficking**

March 23, 2022

Dear Chair and members of the committee:

My name is Constance Buckley, and I am a resident of Harford County. I am appreciative that Delegate Johnson has introduced HB 165 because we know the growing threat of Human Trafficking, especially sex trafficking. I am writing in support of **Bill #: HB 165, Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program – Human and Sex Trafficking** that would require the State Board of Education and nonpublic schools that hold a certificate of approval from the State Board and participate in the Nonpublic Schools Textbook and Technology Grants Program to develop and implement a program of age-appropriate education on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault that includes, for students in grades 6 through 8, material promoting the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking.

It is critical we begin to educate our youth in school surrounding prevention, as we know knowledge is power. That is the same mindset that should be applied when it comes to teaching our children how to identify dangerous behaviors, and how to look out for signs for adults trying to groom them and take advantage of them. We must leverage our schools to provide awareness and prevent sexual abuse and assault while promoting age-appropriate materials essential to prevention. I hope this committee gives HB 165 a favorable vote on the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

Constance Buckley

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