



Maryland
Hospital Association

March 8, 2023

To: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair, House Judiciary Committee

Re: Letter of Information- House Bill 1053- Maryland Department of Transportation - Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)

Dear Chair Clippinger:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on House Bill 1053.

There are [hospital-based sexual assault forensic medical programs](#) statewide where specially trained forensic nurse examiners provide trauma-informed and patient-centered care to survivors of sexual assault, abuse, neglect, interpersonal violence, and human trafficking.

MHA partnered with the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force's medical subcommittee and the University of Maryland SAFE Center in 2020 to update the state's [Human Trafficking: Guidelines for Health Care Providers](#). Subsequently, MHA partnered with the SAFE Center to train health care providers in hospitals across the state. The health care workforce often serves as the first line of defense to identify signs and symptoms of human trafficking.

Sexual assault and human trafficking are widespread, and education on prevention, identification, and how to respond can empower individuals so they too can serve as a line of defense. We appreciate the opportunity to provide information on sexual assault and human trafficking, and Maryland hospitals' response to these critical public health issues.

For more information, please contact:

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