


<b>F R O M</b>	Name & Title	Dr. Leana Wen, Commissioner <i>Leana Wen</i>	Health Department	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201	MEMO	
	Subject	Council Bill 16-0661 – Adult Entertainment Businesses – National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Information Sign Posting		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o 409 City Hall

May 19, 2016

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 16-0661 – Adult Entertainment Businesses – National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Information Sign Posting. This bill would require adult entertainment businesses to post a sign in every bathroom with specified language on how to report suspected human trafficking activity to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. BCHD supports this bill in its effort to combat human trafficking in Baltimore City.

According to the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force (MHTTF), Maryland's central location has facilitated its development as both a pass-through state and a destination for human traffickers who use our many highways, to connect victims to major east coast cities such as Baltimore, Philadelphia and D.C.<sup>i</sup> Since January 2013, MHTTF federal law enforcement partners have identified 200 total victims of trafficking, arrested 94 human traffickers, and initiated 23 federal trafficking prosecutions in Maryland.<sup>ii</sup>

Victims of sex trafficking are frequently recruited to work in adult entertainment businesses as and are required to provide commercial sex to customers.<sup>iii</sup> These businesses often provide the space and environment for buyers to purchase commercial sex. Commercial sex may take place in the bathroom, private dance rooms, or offsite in hotels or buyer's homes.

The sign required by the bill will notify potential victims, other employees and concerned patrons how to contact the appropriate authority when there is a suspected case of human trafficking. Placing the signs in the bathrooms is an appropriate location and will provide privacy for those who wish to record the information provided.

BCHD supports this legislation and will be present at the hearing to answer any questions.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor  
Andrew Nicklas, Legislative Director, Baltimore City Health Department

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.mdhumantrafficking.org/maryland>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.mdhumantrafficking.org/statistics>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://traffickingresourcecenter.org/sex-trafficking-venuesindustries/hostessstrip-club-based>

