



March 23, 2022

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: SUPPORT City Council Bill 22-0191 - Homeless Shelters and Transitional Housing Units – Human Trafficking Notice Requirements

Dear Council Members:

As the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, I support City Council Bill 22-0191 Homeless Shelters and Transitional Housing Units – Human Trafficking Notice Requirements. This bill is for the purpose of requiring homeless shelters and transitional housing units within the City of Baltimore to place a notice regarding a certain human trafficking prevention hotline in certain locations; providing that the required human trafficking notices may be obtained from the United States Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign website; providing for certain penalties; and generally relating to human trafficking notice requirements for homeless shelters and transitional housing units.

According to a survey conducted by Polaris, 64% reported being homeless or experiencing unstable housing at the time they were recruited into their trafficking situation. Traffickers are able to exploit potential victims' fear of sleeping on the street by offering them safe shelter to recruit them into trafficking. The National Hotline has also documented cases of traffickers targeting homeless shelters as recruitment grounds.¹ The National Hotline's mission is to connect human trafficking victims and survivors to critical support and services to get help and stay safe, and to equip the anti-trafficking community with the tools to effectively combat all forms of human trafficking.

The proposed legislation would assist in the mission of the National Hotline and has potential to save lives. Victims and survivors, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, disability, age, or religion, will have 24/7 help, in more than 200

¹ <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking-and-housing-homelessness/>

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languages. While much of human trafficking remains hidden, the National Hotline postings will bring forth the help the victims need within their sight.

We urge a favorable report for CCB 22-0191. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn J. Mosby". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Marilyn J. Mosby, Esq.
State's Attorney for Baltimore City