

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

TITLE: Anne Arundel County Board of Education – Human Trafficking Awareness Pilot Program

BILL NUMBER: HB 1273

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

HEARING DATE: February 19, 2016 – Anne Arundel County Delegation

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The Anne Arundel County Board of Education **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1273 **WITH AMENDMENTS**. This Bill establishes a Human Trafficking Awareness Pilot Program in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. The Program shall begin in the 2017-18 school year and last for 2 years. The Anne Arundel County Board of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, shall provide awareness and training for all school-based personnel on human trafficking. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall provide to the Board resource information on human trafficking and materials for distribution that describe local, state, and national resources to which school-based personnel can refer for information on the subject. On or before July 1 of each year, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education shall report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means on the effectiveness of the Human Trafficking Awareness Pilot Program.

This Bill supports the worthy endeavor of providing human trafficking awareness. As a school system, we welcome the additional resources that we would receive from this Bill. However, the training and reporting requirements are unmanageable and a local administration issue under the domain of the school system. Training all school-based staff on this issue is an unfunded mandate that the school system cannot support at this time. Likewise, we would not be able to report on the effectiveness of the Human Trafficking Program as we do not have baseline data to demonstrate the current issue and subsequently show the change as a result of the program. However, as mentioned above we support and welcome the additional material and resources that can be obtained for the school system under this Bill to combat human trafficking.

Accordingly, we support the awareness and resources provisions of this Bill, but respectively request the removal of the training and reporting requirements. For these reasons, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education urges the Anne Arundel County Delegation to **AMEND** HB 1273 and provide a **FAVORABLE** report on this Bill.