



Montgomery County, MD  
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

Marc Elrich  
*County Executive*

Jodi Finkelstein, MSW  
*Executive Director*

December 2, 2024

Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Ave.,  
Rockville, MD 20850

RE: Support of Bill 25-24--Contracts and Procurement - Prohibitions Against Human Trafficking – Enforcement

Dear President Friedson and Members of the Montgomery County Council,

My name is Wendy Stickle. I am the Chair of the Montgomery County Human Trafficking Prevention Committee (HTPC), a principal lecturer in the UMD Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and the Director of UMD's Criminology and Criminal Justice Program at the Universities at Shady Grove. I am writing this testimony on behalf of the entire HTPC to express our strong support for Bill 25-24, concerning Contracts and Procurement – Prohibition Against Human Trafficking - Enforcement. This bill is a testament to our county's commitment to being a leader in combating human trafficking and ensuring that we are not complicit in this grave violation of human rights.

We commend the County Council for introducing this progressive legislation. By requiring procurement bids to include certifications of compliance with human trafficking laws, and by prohibiting county contractors and subcontractors from violating these laws, we are taking a bold step forward. This bill ensures that our county sets a high standard for ethical business practices and human rights.

The County Council's dedication to preventing human trafficking is evident in the provisions of this bill. By mandating disclosures regarding human trafficking charges and authorizing remedies such as debarment for noncompliance, we are sending a clear message that our county will not tolerate any form of human trafficking. This commitment not only protects vulnerable individuals but also upholds the integrity and reputation of our county.

While the bill's provisions are robust, it is crucial that we acknowledge the importance of providing the necessary resources to ensure its effective enforcement. Adequate funding and staffing are essential for monitoring compliance, investigating violations, and implementing penalties. We urge the council to allocate the resources needed to support these efforts, ensuring that the bill's objectives are fully realized.

In conclusion, Bill 25-24 is a significant step in the county's ongoing fight against human trafficking. It reflects our county's values and commitment to justice and human dignity. We strongly support this bill and encourage the council to ensure its successful implementation by providing the necessary resources.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to this critical issue.

*Wendy Stickle*

Wendy Stickle, Ph.D.

Chair, Montgomery County Human Trafficking Prevention Committee