



Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in favor of HB1555 and thank you to Del. Brewer for her leadership in bringing this Bill forward. My name is Patrick McKenna and I am one of the Directors of the Virginia Coalition Against Human Trafficking ("VCAHT"). VCAHT is an alliance of service providers, attorneys, survivor-advocates, and community members on a mission to remove barriers preventing survivors from achieving a full and healthy life through public awareness campaigns, policy reform and enacting survivor-centered human trafficking legislation. VCAHT supports this Bill because it addresses prevention and identification in an age group which is part of the target population of those seeking to profit from the exploitation of others. Equipping this population with the tools they need to keep from being exploited is critical to reducing the numbers of individuals being exploited and the subsequent damage that is caused by that victimization to those being victimized and our communities. Accordingly, VCAHT urges the Subcommittee to vote in favor of this Bill. Thank you.