



**Testimony in Support of**

**Bill 27-17, Human Rights and Civil Liberties - Human Trafficking  
Prevention Committee - Established**

My name is Elissa Balsley, and I am the Co-President of the Montgomery County chapter of the National Organization for Women. I am here, today, to add my voice to the support for creating a permanent Human Trafficking task force. MCNOW has been a part of the task force, since its inception, with Jeannette Feldner serving as our representative. One of NOW's core issues, is ending violence against women. While human trafficking affects many different groups, Polaris' statistics from 2016 show that, in the United States, sex trafficking is the most reported type of trafficking, and that women and girls are 6 times more likely to be the victims in the reported incidents. The ever-changing nature of human trafficking, makes it vital that there be a permanent task force installed, to best protect the women and girls, and other victims, in Montgomery County. As always, MCNOW will be here to offer any support it can, as the task force moves forward.