

Four talking points on Asset Forfeiture

1. Maryland has an asset forfeiture bill for convicted drug traffickers. The same people who traffic drugs are turning to trafficking humans because it is more lucrative—whereas a drug is consumed, a human being can be used over and over again. The reality in our state today is that very same trafficker would have to forfeit assets for the crime of selling drugs, but not for selling children! This is not right.
2. Criminal traffickers should not be permitted to retain ownership of (a) the proceeds of the crime; (b) the instrumentalities of the crime; or (c) property involved in the commission of the crime.
3. Asset forfeiture is a financial penalty that can serve as a further deterrent to the crime of trafficking.
4. Maryland must have a source of funds for victim services.