



Child Advocacy Center *of Sedgwick County*

**Senate Judiciary Committee
In support of Senate Bill 61
Testimony of Diana Schunn, Executive Director
Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County**

January 28, 2013

Chairman King and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share our support of SB 61.

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 61 regarding human trafficking legislation. The Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County was founded on the belief that no single agency can serve and treat child abuse—a multidisciplinary team response is necessary. The same principal applies in cases of human trafficking. Initial response is critical and must include collaboration among agencies and services. Our agency serves nearly 2,000 child victims of abuse including those affected by human trafficking.

Wichita/Sedgwick County, which could be referred to as the “epicenter of the battle”, continues to promote coordination of efforts, co-location of services, and immediate response protocols. It is critical that law enforcement maintains the authority to investigate cases involving human trafficking while having the rapid assistance of the Department for Children and Families in determining safety, circumstances of the case, placement options, and next steps. Through our experience the first 72 hours after being removed from a human trafficking situation is a pivotal time for intervention. Human trafficking situations are often complex cases and demand the attention of multiple service providers.

The passing of this legislation will bring urgency to how and when these cases are handled locally and across the state and assist to ensure that victims are protected in the best way possible. Ensuring that victims receive appropriate and effective intervention is essential to their healing and moving forward to a life free from violence.

Having been in healthcare and forensic nursing for 20 years and spending the past five with the Child Advocacy Center, I have had the opportunity to assist coordination of services for human trafficking clients. This bill moves us in the right direction of protection of victims and accountability of offenders. Again, I support and encourage movement forward with this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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