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**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 418
Strengthening Families and Preventing Sex Trafficking Act**

**Presented to the House Judiciary Committee
By Assistant Attorney General Pat Colloton
Director, Anti-Human Trafficking Unit**

March 15, 2016

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 418.

As Chair of the Human Trafficking Advisory Board, I served on the Joint Task Force that developed this bill. The task force included the Department for Children and Families, the Department of Corrections' Juvenile Services and law enforcement representatives, particularly Ed Klumpp. Our group addressed the portions of the legislation that address runaway and missing children, the juveniles under the Interstate Compact Juvenile and the melding of current state laws on human trafficking with the provisions of the bill.

The Joint Task Force recommended the legislation to its parent groups, the Judicial Council on Juvenile Offenders and CINCs, and the Supreme Court's Permanency Council. Both fully endorsed this legislation and requested that it be presented to the state Human Trafficking Advisory Board (HTAB). A number of the members on HTAB served on the Joint Task Force and recommended to HTAB that it be passed on for consideration. This legislation combines the efforts to comply with federal legislation and improve the process for handling vulnerable juveniles.

We appreciate the committee's careful consideration of this bill.

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