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**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 281
Protection orders for human trafficking victims**

**Presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee
By Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt**

January 23, 2018

Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 281, extending the ability to obtain civil protection orders to victims of human trafficking.

Yesterday, you heard from members of our team on our ongoing efforts in educating the public, supporting victims and supporting law enforcement and prosecutors in combating human trafficking. In recent years, we have made numerous changes and additions to Kansas law to lay the foundation to better address human trafficking and its related crimes. As a result of your hard work, Shared Hope International, a victim advocacy group that seeks to end sex trafficking and exploitation worldwide, reports that the State of Kansas is the third most-improved state in the nation for its legislative efforts to combat human trafficking and one of only two states that increased four grade levels since the group's report card began in 2011. Since 2011, Kansas' score has risen from an "F" to an "A" in the 2017 report. We are one of only eight states to score an "A."

But our work is not done. Today, we bring before you a proposal to increase protections for victims of human trafficking. Current law allows courts to issue a protection from stalking or sexual assault order restraining a defendant from harassment, communication and abusive behaviors in addition to placing restrictions on physical proximity to the victim. The bill before you today would extend these same protections for victims of human trafficking.

The bill is a result of a recommendation made by the Human Trafficking Advisory Board (HTAB). You also have before you written testimony in support of the bill from the Board's chair, Assistant Attorney General Pat Colloton, on behalf of the Board.

I again appreciate the committee's consideration of this bill and encourage its passage.