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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary in Support of SB281
January 23, 2018

Chairman Wilborn and Committee Members,

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office supports SB281 relating to protection orders for victims of human trafficking. Human trafficking is a form of contemporary slavery that occurs in every state, including Kansas.

In Kansas, human trafficking occurs in illicit massage businesses, escort services, hotel/motel based operations (this is prevalent on Native American Reservations), as well as through online ads. Kansas has had several cases reported in the last ten years. According to the U.S. Justice Department, the average age of entry for a child victim in the United States is 13 to 14 years old. With smart phones being ubiquitous our children are exposed to trafficking predators that can lure them away from home for a meeting without direct contact until that meeting occurs.

Victims/Survivors of human trafficking are often harassed and threatened by their former traffickers after they come forward to law enforcement. This legislation provides an important legal tool to safeguard these victim/survivors. The Johnson County Sheriff's Office urges your support of SB281 and we ask you to recommend it favorably for passage.

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