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**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee
In Support of SB281
January 23, 2018**

Kansas law enforcement has worked hard to provide increased awareness to the problem of human trafficking including training of officers to recognize and investigate potential human trafficking crimes. In coordination of many other grass roots and government initiatives in Kansas, the number of these investigations resulting in the recovery of human trafficking victims is increasing. This has resulted in more experience and observations of the difficulty these victims have in breaking away from their traffickers. This is especially true of our juvenile sex trafficking victims.

It was because of repeatedly seeing some of these victims exposed to traffickers attempting to influence them to return to “the life” the concept of SB281 was developed. This bill will allow for a protection order for human trafficking victims. Further, when the victim is a juvenile it allows for other responsible persons to seek the protection order on their behalf.

While we hope the protection order will decrease this activity, it will also be a useful tool to law enforcement when traffickers choose to try to pull these victims back from the hope of treatment and recovery. First, it can lead to a chargeable crime of violating the protection order in some cases. Second, it can be a good investigative tool for identifying and investigating further human trafficking crimes.

We strongly encourage you to recommend this bill favorably and help these victims stay the course of treatment and recovery.

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