



WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

Theatre Department

I am Dr. Sharon Sullivan. I am a professor at Washburn University, director of Stop Trafficking Reject Slavery, Co-chair of the Topeka Shawnee County Human Trafficking Coalition, a member of the Kansas Human Trafficking Advisory Board, and President of the NGO, International Public Policy Institute. I have been providing education and training about human trafficking in Kansas for more than ten years. Like every other state, Kansas struggles with the crime of human trafficking. Yet I am asked repeatedly-“but that doesn’t happen in Kansas, right?”

The Topeka Shawnee County Human Trafficking Coalition asked the Kansas Human Trafficking Advisory Board to sponsor and support state legislation requiring statewide posting of the National Human Trafficking hotline in certain businesses because we know that victims are in these places and advertising the hotline increases the chances of 1) victimized people calling for help, and 2) citizen awareness and identification of the crime. The majority of states already require mandatory posting in certain businesses.

I am a proponent of SB 371 because, while the current legislation from 2013 reads businesses “may” post the hotline, we can and must do more to protect and educate our citizens. Posting the National Human Trafficking Hotline in businesses is an inexpensive and simple way to improve awareness of this crime and help people ensnared in human trafficking.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Sullivan".