

Cuyahoga Regional Human Trafficking Task Force

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November 26, 2018

To: Criminal Justice Committee

Nathan H. Manning, Chair

Bill Seitz

Jeffrey S. Resabek, Vice Chair

Tavia Galonski

Nicholas Celebrezze, Ranking Member

Bernadine Kennedy Kent

Jim Butler

Laura Lanese

Robert R. Cupp

Jim Hughes

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Greetings Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Celebrezze, and members of the House of Representatives Criminal Justice Committee. I urge you to support H.B. 461 so that protections will no longer be limited for Ohio's older minors that are sixteen and seventeen years old

I am a Sergeant with the Cuyahoga County Sheriff Department, and I am currently assigned as the Assistant Director for the Cuyahoga Regional Human Trafficking Task Force and the Northeast Ohio Major Crimes Task Force. The Cuyahoga Regional Human Trafficking Task Force is through the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission and is comprised of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff Department, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, Ohio Investigative Unit, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, Independence Police Department, and MetroHealth Police Department. The Task Force is also a member of the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking and sits on the Law Enforcement Sub-Committee of Cleveland's Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking as well as the Northeast Ohio Human Trafficking Law Clinic Legislative Sub-Committee.

Background

Human trafficking is a crime that continues to grow in Ohio. It is a crime that capitalizes on those who are fractured or have vulnerabilities. Those who traffic, exploit individuals and systems to the tune of \$150 billion globally. Traffickers are often master manipulators and rely on their fine-tuned skills to obtain the product (a person) that they can sell or use repeatedly. At times the commodities of the traffickers happen to be some of Ohio's most vulnerable children that are sixteen and seventeen years old.

H.B. 461 Is a Force Multiplier

House Bill 461 is a force multiplier for investigators. It allows the investigators to concentrate on treating the minor victim as just that, a victim. H.B. 461 sends a message that there is no level of acceptable exploitation when it comes to the youth of Ohio or any other juvenile found in Ohio. Passage of H.B. 461 will ensure that Ohio will not be a destination for those who wish to victimize our youth and will place us in line with every other State and the District of Columbia by not limiting identification and protection for older minors.

Sincerely,



James Mackey, Assistant Director
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