



DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Administration
Office 614-728-5458
Fax 614-466-5087

October 5, 2021

Honorable Nathan Manning, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Manning,

I write today to offer my support for SB 183, the Expanding Human Trafficking Justice Act. Once the nightmare of human trafficking is over, many individuals begin another battle – putting their lives back together and starting over. They fight drug addiction and mental trauma. And while recovering, the journey is made even more difficult when they are barred from employment or housing because of their past involvement with trafficking.

Current law allows for the expungement of some criminal offenses committed by victims of trafficking, but only if there is a predicate charge of Solicitation, Loitering to Solicit, or Soliciting with HIV. There are many deserving survivors who otherwise qualify to have their records expunged, but who were never convicted of those particular charges under the Ohio Revised Code. SB 183 removes these barriers to recovery by allowing for the expungement of a larger range of criminal offenses when it can be shown that participation in those offenses was the result of human trafficking.

While I support the removal of unnecessary obstacles that hamper a victim from rebuilding their life, we must strike a balance between this and justice for offenders who voluntarily commit criminal acts. For this reason, I would be in favor of several changes that have been offered by the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association.

I applaud Senators Fedor and Kunze for their continued leadership in this area. My hope is that through a cooperative legislative process, SB 183 can make a difference in the lives of many human trafficking survivors. I would be happy to discuss this bill with you or members of your committee.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General

cc: Senator Teresa Fedor
Senator Stephanie Kunze