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Human Trafficking **UPDATE**

from
**State Senator
Stewart Greenleaf**



Legislation Enacted to Fight Human Trafficking in Pennsylvania

On July 2nd, my legislation to combat human trafficking in Pennsylvania was signed into law. Human trafficking is modern-day slavery in which victims are forced or coerced into labor or sexual servitude. It is currently one of the fastest-growing criminal enterprises in the world, operating on a large scale across the United States and in Pennsylvania. This illegal industry generates approximately \$32 billion per year. In fact, there are more individuals in slavery today than at the height of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. One in three runaway teens are lured into prostitution by a trafficker within 48 hours of leaving home. An estimated 300,000 American children are trafficked in the United States each year. It was recently reported that the National Human Trafficking Hotline received a 456% increase in calls since 2008. Re-

“One in three runaway teens are lured into prostitution by a trafficker within 48 hours of leaving home.”

ported cases of human trafficking jumped 52% from 2012. The problem in Pennsylvania is that the state’s legal definition of human trafficking fails to mention sex trafficking or sexual servitude. My legislation has rewritten the definition to enable prosecutors to convict more human traffickers who are currently convicted of lesser crimes. Because of the weakness of the current law and the misunderstood nature of human trafficking, many victims are not identified and are arrested and prosecuted for crimes, such as prostitution. Conversely, traffickers are often celebrated in popular culture as

“pimps.” We must stop treating the victims as criminals and the criminals as victims. Also, many victims refuse to cooperate with law enforcement, because they are usually controlled by their trafficker, who uses the threat of violence or drug dependency. Some victims actually believe their traffickers are protecting and providing for them after coming from a home life that was abusive or offered them no support. Also, the new law requires special protection for victims by preventing the release of their names in court

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May 7, 2013 - Senator Greenleaf speaks on human trafficking during a rally at the State Capitol with SB 75 co-sponsors, Senators Leach and Dimmiman.

March 20, 2014 -
Senator Greenleaf held a human trafficking public meeting at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Willow Grove.



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proceedings.

While the passage of this legislation is a significant victory, a true win over human trafficking will come only with successful prevention. Many organizations,

“We must stop treating the victims as criminals and the criminals as victims.”

both government-associated and non-profit, were involved in advocating for the passage of this legislation. I am currently working with them to create a state-wide plan to educate the public, including students, judges, prosecutors, members of law enforcement, and first responders on human trafficking and how to recognize victims.

Throughout the past year, many rallies and community meetings were held throughout Pennsylvania to raise awareness and motivate citizens to ad-

National Human Trafficking Hotline

The National Human Trafficking Hotline is a national, victim-centered, toll-free hotline providing referrals, resources, general information, and assistance. Calls are taken 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

**Contact the Hotline at
 1-888-373-7888**

OR

Text: BeFree (233733)

vocate for the passage of SB 75. The response was overwhelming and created a true movement to fight human trafficking. More of this motivation and energy is needed to help identify human trafficking and educate others.



April 3, 2014 -
Senator Greenleaf speaks about SB 75 with members of the Bucks County Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA).

SB 75, now Act 105 of 2014 will:

- Re-define human trafficking to help prosecutors convict more traffickers.
- Increase fines and penalties for the crime of human trafficking.
- Help identify human trafficking victims.
- Protect victims' identity during prosecution.

Human Trafficking Resources

The following organizations are fighting human trafficking on the national and local level through victim assistance, public education, and legislative advocacy. Visit their websites to learn more about human trafficking and how you can get involved.

Polaris Project

www.polarisproject.org

202-745-1001

The Polaris project is a nonprofit organization that works to help victims of trafficking rebuild their lives. They operate the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and Human Trafficking Hotline. They are also the premier source of human trafficking legislative and policy expertise in the United States.

Bucks County Network of Victim Assistance

www.novabucks.org

1-800-675-6900

Bucks County Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) supports, counsels, and empowers victims of sexual as-

sault and other serious crimes in Bucks County and works to prevent and eliminate violence in society through advocacy, training, community education, and prevention programs.

Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking

www.bcatpa.org

Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking works to eradicate human trafficking in Bucks County through victim identification, community education, policy advocacy, and victim services.

Montgomery County Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition

www.mcatpa.org

MCAT's mission is to raise awareness about human trafficking and to provide a resource of service providers to identify victims and meet their needs.

Dawn's Place

www.ahomefordawn.org

215-849-2396

Dawn's Place works to improve the lives of women who have been trafficked in the Philadelphia area.

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