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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 281

**Presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee
By Assistant Attorney General Pat Colloton
Chair, Human Trafficking Advisory Board
January 22, 2018**

Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of the Human Trafficking Advisory Board in support of Senate Bill 281 and a proposed amendment.

The Human Trafficking Advisory Board (HTAB) is composed of representatives from law enforcement agencies across Kansas, the relevant state agencies, a prosecutor, judge, legislators, medical experts, victim service groups and survivors of human trafficking. Its purpose is to create policies that coordinate efforts across the state to combat human trafficking. It is my honor to have served as chair of the HTAB board since 2013.

In 2013 the legislature passed a comprehensive bill to address human trafficking in Kansas and HTAB was statutorily established to further the goals of this legislation. A fundamental goal in the legislation was to recognize that those who are trafficked are victims and to create a path for them to recover from the harms done to them. For child sex trafficking, a responsibility was placed on law enforcement to recover these children as CINCS (Child in Need of Care) who are entitled to specially designated services under the state's child protective services. The Attorney General is tasked with coordinating training for law enforcement to help recover trafficked children and more than 5000 law enforcement officers have received training since 2013 under a protocol developed and kept updated by the HTAB. Many victim service agencies across the state have been given training on an identification tool developed in coordination with HTAB that has been used to identify and assist victims. The Attorney General's office, in coordination with HTAB members, has provided more than 100 public awareness and prevention presentations to civic and church groups, medical training in hospitals, school training for counselors and resource officers, specialized training for judges and attorneys and a program coordinated with Truckers Against Trafficking.

HTAB at its quarterly meetings has discussed the importance of a protective order against those who subject the trafficking victim to sexual exploitation. In order to protect victims from the threats and demands of traffickers or from the buyers who create the demand for victims and in order to help victims recover and reestablish a normal life, a protective order would be very useful.

HTAB, by a unanimous vote at its most recently quarterly meeting, endorsed SB 281 with a proposed amendment. As drafted in SB 281, Section 5(c), the protective order may be obtained by the parent of a minor child, an adult residing with the minor child, the county or district attorney or the Attorney General. HTAB endorses a recommendation for an amendment to add the guardian *ad litem* to those who may seek a protective order under Section 5(c).

The Human Trafficking Advisory Board strongly urges your adoption of SB 281 with an amendment to add the guardian *ad litem* in SB.281 Section 5(c).