

Help Local Communities Target and Treat Trafficking Victims: Ensure Victims become Survivors. Support HB 1113.

There are reportedly 80,000 children and young adults being trafficked in Texas. These children often have traumatic histories with the foster care system and juvenile justice system. As a result of experiencing severe trauma, sex trafficking survivors are frequently diagnosed with PTSD, bipolar disorder, anxiety, and depression. Without effective treatment, these victims have long-term physical and social-emotional issues. These factors require collaborative efforts with highly-trained care providers - to help victims become survivors. Although studies have shown an increase in the number of sex trafficking survivors over recent years, treatment services available to these survivors only cover a small fraction, and little has been done to target specific community needs.

Sex Trafficking is a public health crisis that intersects with the criminal justice system, child protective services, and private business - all areas in which the state and local government have significant involvement. While there have been various state-level initiatives to address human trafficking, local governments have the unique benefit of having an in-depth knowledge of its residents, business patterns, and vulnerable populations. This gives them an advantage in identifying and responding to instances of human trafficking. Unfortunately, many municipalities lack the resources to identify gaps in services and to implement any identified service strategies.

You can implement a targeted approach to preventing sex trafficking and supporting survivors.
Support HB 1113.

What HB 1113 Does:

- 1) Establishes an in-patient and out-patient treatment program for child sex trafficking survivors.
- 2) Creates a matching grant program for municipalities and law enforcement agencies to implement effective prevention programs.
- 3) Ensures tax payer dollars are not directed to entities that support or promote sex trafficking.

Why HB 1113 Works:

- 1) *HB 1113 is comprehensive.* HB 1113 targets sex trafficking at all levels by:
 - Focusing on prevention, identification, and effective treatment for survivors.
 - Incorporating the advantages of local government flexibility with state expertise and resources.
- 2) *HB 1113 is economical.* HB 1113 will maximize state resources by:
 - Ensuring tax payer dollars are never indirectly supporting bad actors.
 - Collaborating with municipalities, universities, and non-governmental organizations.
 - Incentivizing innovation in treatment services and prevention strategies.

HB 1113 in the 86th:

- HB 1113 was voted out unanimously from Public Health
- HB 1113 has bipartisan joint authorship.
- HB 1113 has the support of medical association, mental health organizations, criminal justice reform organizations, and child advocacy groups.

A Comprehensive Solution to a Complex Problem.
Support HB 1113 and Support Survivors.

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