

2-4-19

**IDAHO ANTI- TRAFFICKING  
COALITION, INC**

Senator Todd Lakey, Chair and Committee Members

Jennifer Zielinski  
Executive Director  
Idaho Anti-Trafficking Coalition

February 4, 2019

As the Executive Director of the Idaho Anti-Trafficking Coalition, I would like to state that I am in full support of Senate Bill 1003.

Safe harbor laws were developed by states to address inconsistencies with how children that are exploited for commercial sex are treated. Under federal law, a child under eighteen that is induced into providing commercial sex is a victim of trafficking and must be treated as such. State laws criminalize adults that have sex with children under statutory rape laws, however these laws were not consistently applied in cases where the adult purchased sex. The result was children, recognized under both state and federal law as victims of a crime, were arrested and convicted of prostitution. Safe harbor laws are intended to address the inconsistent treatment of children and ensure that these victims were provided with services.

Due to the increase in awareness and Idaho's local and state agencies who report a lack of services, supports, and safe housing for victims of sex trafficking, our organization is opening the first safe house in Boise for minor victims of sex trafficking, Solace House, due to open April 2019. In addition to providing a safe place to heal and restore, we are pursuing a clinic in Boise that will offer all forms of mental health services and trauma care to meet the needs of anyone suspected, at risk, or already identified as a victim of sex trafficking. We are working in collaboration with agencies and organizations throughout the Treasure Valley to ensure quality and a comprehensive system of care. Our mission is to work alongside the community to provide awareness, education, services, and safe housing for victims of human trafficking.

Please reach out for further questions or follow up, as this is a critical epidemic that calls for the entire state to get involved in.

Sincerely,

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