



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Sen. Petrowski and Rep. Loudenbeck Announce Final Passage of Human Trafficking Bill

Bill to Protect Human Trafficking Victims Moves to the Governor for his Signature

Madison, WI... Today, the state Senate passed a bill to strengthen our laws to protect victims of human trafficking and provide additional tools to prosecute human trafficking cases. The bill was authored by Senator Jerry Petrowski (*R-Marathon*) and Representative Amy Loudenbeck (*R-Clinton*) with the assistance of Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen, and now moves to the governor to be signed into law.

“Human trafficking is a fast growing criminal industry across the globe and Wisconsin is no exception. While Wisconsin is moving in the right direction to eradicate human trafficking, there is still a lot of work to do. I applaud the Senate’s passage of this sensible, bipartisan legislation. It is crucial that we protect our most vulnerable citizens,” said Petrowski.

In July of 2013, ten children in Wisconsin were rescued from child trafficking as part of a nationwide FBI investigation. The number of children rescued was the second highest state total in the nation.

“An important provision in the bill relates to asset forfeiture, which will serve as a deterrent to perpetrators of this heinous crime. Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world and one of the most profitable, with traffickers making over \$32 billion in profits each year worldwide,” said Loudenbeck.

Key changes to current law contained in the bill include:

- Providing a unified process to incorporate the forfeiture of property into a human trafficking case
- Eliminating non-consent as part of the definition of “trafficking”
- Limiting the ability to prosecute minors engaged in prostitution as a result of human trafficking
- Allowing a victim of human trafficking to have a prostitution conviction vacated or expunged
- Giving victims of the crime greater rights to confidentiality
- Allowing evidence of any similar acts by the accused to be admitted in court for pending trafficking and child sex crimes

The Senate and Assembly versions of this bill can be found here: [SB492/AB620](#)

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