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SEN. JACQUE'S HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIM SUPPORT LEGISLATION CLEARS SENATE COMMITTEE

Assembly-passed bill provides grants to non-profit organizations that work with local law enforcement to help victims of human trafficking get their lives back

MADISON, WI... Legislation to help victims of human trafficking get their lives and dignity back cleared a Senate committee today. The measure passed the State Assembly unanimously earlier this month.

Sen. Jacque (R-De Pere), Senate co-author of the bill, said human trafficking is a major concern in Wisconsin, which serves as a hub for the entire Midwest due to its interstate corridors.

“Sex trafficking is among the most heinous forms of abuse,” Sen. Jacque said. “As several Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigators have relayed to me, pimps seek out individuals to exploit when they are most vulnerable, and essentially take victims lives from them.”

Sen. Jacque said this initiative will help fill a vital role in building capacity to serve victims of sex trafficking by establishing a pilot program that will provide fifty percent matching funds up to \$2.5 million over two years to assist victim support organizations in providing the critical care services - such as food, job training, and housing.

“These resources are critical to help victims escape this bondage and lead free, independent lives,” Sen. Jacque said. “This bill will help put an end to sexual exploitation in our state and restore human dignity to victims.”

Sen. Jacque said the legislation is an important part of a comprehensive strategy to prevent human trafficking, which also includes child sex trafficking education legislation ([Assembly Bill 977](#)), which passed the Assembly this month.

“I am pleased the Legislature, on a bipartisan basis, is recognizing the need for the State of Wisconsin to combat human trafficking,” Sen. Jacque said. “These efforts are about putting an end to sexual exploitation in our state and helping victims get their lives back.”

The measure ([Assembly Bill 979 / Senate Bill 961](#)) passed the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety on a bipartisan 6-1 vote. It must now pass the full Senate and be signed by the Governor to become law.

Senator André Jacque represents Northeast Wisconsin's First Senate District, consisting of Door and Kewaunee Counties and portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Outagamie counties.

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