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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 4TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 10, 2024

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Rep. Steffen Introduces Bill to Empower Victims of Child Sex Trafficking

Bipartisan proposal is part of Speaker's Task Force on Human Trafficking

Madison, WI – Today, State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) introduced legislation that will enhance the legal options for victims of child trafficking to pursue justice. The bipartisan bill is part of the Speaker's Task Force on Human Trafficking. The Task Force met several times this session and gathered input from stakeholders and community members to find legislative solutions to this complex issue.

The proposal led by Rep. Steffen is twofold and provides victims of child trafficking greater opportunity to pursue civil action in our court system. The proposal:

- Increases the civil action-related statute of limitations for child trafficking victims to age 35. Under current law, victims of child trafficking are limited to a three-year period to bring forth a civil action. This change brings into alignment the statute of limitations for child trafficking with the current statute of limitations for sexual assault of a child.
- Allows child trafficking victims to pursue civil action regardless of whether someone has been criminally convicted in their case. Under current law, a victim of child trafficking may only pursue civil action if there has been a criminal prosecution or conviction.

“Child trafficking is a complex and heartbreaking issue without a simple solution. Removing barriers to civil action by expanding legal options for victims is an important part of that solution. This proposal provides victims a pathway for justice and works to hold perpetrators accountable,” said Rep. Steffen.

The bill is currently being circulated for co-sponsorship support before it will be available for a public hearing in the State Legislature.

For more information please contact the office of Representative Steffen at (608)237-9104 or by email at Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov.

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