

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Robyn Vining Supports Safe Harbor Legislation

MADISON – Representative Jill Billings and Senator Alberta Darling recently introduced Assembly Bill 41, which grants immunity to child victims of sex trafficking from prostitution charges. Representative Robyn Vining (D-Wauwatosa) co-authored this legislation and has issued the following statement in support:

"The Safe Harbor Bill is a piece of common-sense legislation that helps protect trafficked youth. Victims of sex trafficking, particularly children, should never be penalized or charged as criminals."

"The trauma that these children suffer is unimaginable. And consider the added trauma of being arrested for something they can't legally – under the age of consent – agree to do. These children should not be criminally charged for actions that they can't rationally or consensually decide for themselves."

"These vulnerable youth need a safe escape from their situations, so they can reunite with their families and communities without fear of retribution. I came to Madison to fight for these kids, and that's what this legislation does."

Representative Vining is a founding board member of the nonprofit organization Exploit No More, which combats child sex trafficking. Rep. Vining has worked for over ten years to bring awareness to this issue and provide resources to those affected by human trafficking.

The Assembly Committee on Children and Families will hold a public hearing on Assembly Bill 41 this Wednesday, March 27th at 10:30AM in room 417 North of the State Capitol.

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