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## Statement of Rep. Jerry O'Connor after the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office Apprehends Child Sex Traffickers in FDL

MADISON – Representative Jerry O'Connor (R-Fond du Lac) released the following statement after the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office apprehends child sex traffickers in FDL:

"On Sunday afternoon, a member of the FDL community called the FDL County Sheriff's Department to report that a 12-year-old girl had come to their door asking for help after she escaped a man who had purchased her from her mother, bound and blindfolded her before attempting to sexually assault her. Miraculously, the girl was able to fight back and escape this horrific situation to find help. On Monday, FDL Sheriff's deputies arrested the child's mother and the child's male attacker.

This horrific situation highlights the fact that child sex trafficking does not just in big cities but also in small towns right here in Wisconsin. As Chair of the Human Trafficking Task Force, we investigated horrific situations like this across Wisconsin. We worked to provide law enforcement and non-profit organizations with the tools they need to end the problem of human trafficking in our communities.

This tragic situation also highlights the ongoing dangers of Biden and the Democrat Party's open border policies. The male suspect had illegally immigrated to the U.S. from Nicaragua. He was detained by the U.S. Border Patrol in 2021 only to be released under Biden's "catch-and-release" open borders policy. Until this administration gets serious about upholding the law and securing our border, situations like this are likely to happen with increasing frequency.

Thank you to Sheriff Waldschmidt and the FDL County Sheriff's Department for their efforts to help this young girl and combat child sex trafficking in our community.

To read more about this situation, click here: <a href="https://fox11online.com/news/crime/two-in-custody-after-12-year-old-escapes-sexual-assault-situation-in-fond-du-lac-county-sheriffs-office-bound-blindfolded-oakfield-marquette-street-mexico-nicaraguan-mother-human-services">https://fox11online.com/news/crime/two-in-custody-after-12-year-old-escapes-sexual-assault-situation-in-fond-du-lac-county-sheriffs-office-bound-blindfolded-oakfield-marquette-street-mexico-nicaraguan-mother-human-services</a>

To learn more about the Speaker's Task Force on Human Trafficking and what we're doing to eliminate sex trafficking in Wisconsin, visit our website here: <a href="https://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/committees/human-trafficking/">https://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/committees/human-trafficking/</a>."

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