

State Representative Janel Brandtjen Introduces Bill to Help Stop Human Trafficking:

For more information call
Rep. Brandtjen (608) 267-2367

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Madison – State Representative Janel Brandtjen (R- Menomonee Falls) has introduced a bill that will eliminate loopholes in the child abuse and mandating reporting laws. The bill would require agencies that are charged with the responsibility of protecting children, to report all instances of suspected child abuse and human trafficking to law enforcement within 12 hours of the reported abuse or neglect.

The bill would also expand the mandatory reporting law to include probation and parole agents and certain volunteers and contractors in schools who work directly with children.

“Right now current law enables those involved in the sexual exploitation of children to conduct their business with impunity. The child sex trade has become a billion dollar industry and uses highly sophisticated technology. We need to step up our game to end the horrific practice. It is the responsibility of every decent human being to make sure that children are safe from these predators.” Brandtjen said, “To allow this practice to continue would be unconscionable.”

Finally, the measure would expand the legal definition of child abuse to exposure to all controlled substances not just methamphetamines. Openly exposing children to drug deals, consumption or manufacture of illegal drugs would be considered child abuse under the bill.

The bill is currently being circulated in the legislature for cosponsorship.