



# Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

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## **Wanggaard Bill Targeting Human Traffickers Passes Senate** Similar Bill Led to Arrest of 400 Child Sex Predators

MADISON – A bill making it easier to find and arrest human traffickers passed the State Senate on an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote. Senate Bill 541 allows the Department of Justice (DOJ) to quickly learn who is using a hotel room for human trafficking. The bill builds on the success of Alicia’s Law, which led to the arrest of over 400 sexual predators of children in 2017.

“Given the overlap between child sex crimes and human and sex trafficking this bill just makes sense,” said Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine). “Alicia’s Law has probably been the single most effective tool targeting sex crimes that passed in decades. I expect to see similar results with this bill.”

Senate Bill 541 allows the DOJ to issue administrative subpoenas to hotels to obtain basic guest information if there is a reasonable suspicion of human trafficking activity. To seek this information, DOJ must currently draft a search warrant, and seek a judge’s approval, which can take several hours. Additionally, under current law, administrative subpoenas can only be used for child sex crimes.

“Senate Bill 541 can be a tremendous tool to get ahead of these crimes. Wisconsin, in particular the I-94 corridor in Kenosha and Racine County, is a hotbed for both human and sex trafficking,” Wanggaard said. “We need to do more to prevent this heinous crime from occurring, and we must find ways to rescue victims more quickly.”

The bill, co-authored by Representative Joel Kleefisch (R-Oconomowoc) is expected to pass the Assembly this week. Attorney General Brad Schimel helped draft the bill, which has the support law enforcement agencies and the Wisconsin Hotel and Lodging Association. Hotels are often unknowing and unwilling of human trafficking rings.

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