DOING THE MOST GOOD℠

William Booth
Founder
Shaw Clifton
General
Lawrence R. Moretz
Territorial Commander
Ronald Foreman
Divisional Commander

April 14, 2010

ADVISORY BOARD
Mark Swepston
Chair
Doug Wyatt
First Vice Chair
Darren Shepard
Second Vice Chair
Richard R. Murphey III
Treasurer
Robert Wiseman
Secretary
J. Craig Mohre
Immediate Past Chair

LIFE MEMBERS
Donald C. Fanta
Thomas C. Fitzpatrick
Herb Flint
Robert R. Leslie
George R. Manser
Richard R. Murphey, Jr.

MEMBERS
Christopher D. Adkinson
Larry Anderson
Robert P. Anderson
Mark Baer
Justin Bates
Kevin Blosser
William J. Burke
Ron Cadieux
Robert J. Comfort
Frank Courtney
Michael DeAscentis, Sr.
Michael Durbin
Jeffrey W. Edwards
Robert Falcone
Richard W. Foster
John P. Gilliam
Danny Graves
Dan Guveiyian
Aaron Shawn Harper
Erika L. Haupt
George D. Krempley
Deborah S. Lutz
Bart Mahoney
Lonnie L. Miles
Robert H. Moone
Paul E. Nordman
William Petrus
Rich Ramsey
Daniel B. Roe
JoAnne Schorsten
Steven Shepard
Angie Storm
Kim L. Swanson
Patsy A. Thomas
Jim Williams
Stephen Zonars

Memo To: Senate Judiciary Committee on Criminal Justice
From: Christina Conrad –Anti-Human Trafficking
Re: SB-235; Trafficking in Persons

Greetings members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Christina Conrad I am proud to be the Anti-Human Trafficking Specialist for the Salvation Army. I would like to take my time this morning to remind us why combating Human Trafficking is so critical to the wellbeing of our state and how the passing of Senate Bill 235 will help us see great advances in the fight against Human Trafficking.

First and foremost we must not fail to recognize that Human Trafficking is modern day slavery that involves the exploitation of women, children and men for another person's benefit. It is worth our attention. According to the Polaris Project, human trafficking is the second largest and fastest growing form of organized crime. It not only exists in foreign lands, but hidden in plain sight in Ohio in the form of sexual exploitation and forced labor.

I find that no one argues that Human Trafficking is a problem in Ohio and we all agree that steps must be taken to address its presence. However, experience has shown me that current laws are ineffective in combating trafficking. Currently Ohio's solution is to prosecute people who we assume to be traffickers under related charges like "abduction" and "compelling prostitution".

Unfortunately when we prosecute on similar offenses and/or focus on only isolated aspects of the overall crime we are ignoring the actual issue, much like treating the independent symptoms of a cold rather than attacking the virus itself. Without a legal definition of Human Trafficking, Ohio prosecutes traffickers under charges such as kidnapping and rape. By prosecuting traffickers as "traffickers," we will be able to gather data about this specific crime and have a greater understanding of this criminal industry.

When looking at trafficking from an economic perspective, there are three components at play. We have the **Suppliers** who are traffickers/pimps/recruiters/transporters/harborers; the **Commodity** - victims in the form of prostitutes/migrant laborers/strippers/factory workers, and finally the **Demand** that ranges from the "Johns" seeking sex to the population demanding common products at the cheapest price.

United Way
Member Agency

The Salvation Army Columbus Area Services
Major Francis Kirk - Divisional Secretary for Greater Columbus Major Bonnie Kirk - Associate Area Coordinator for Greater Columbus
P.O. Box 06324 Columbus, Ohio 43206-0324 P 614.221.6561 F 614.221.1896 www.SalvationArmyColumbus.org

If we elect to pass Senate Bill 235 we are going to take a huge step in eliminating one full sector of this trifecta. Prosecuting the traffickers will result in a decrease in people being victimized by trafficking. The best way to visualize this is to look at what we know of the sex industry. Though the pimps (suppliers) account for the smallest percentage of people involved in the industry it is estimated they control 75% of prostitutes (commodity). Therefore when we arrest just one trafficker an average of 8 females could be off the streets.

We can be proud in our decision to put effort toward fighting Human Trafficking because we are confident in knowing countless lives will be saved from unspeakable abuse and a lifetime of trauma. Additionally we should recognize this will have positive effects on our economic security. Kevin Bales, author of "Disposable People" does an excellent job of explaining how slave labor is devastating to an economy. When a culture operates under slave labor, only a small percentage of individuals are collecting great profits off the backs of the population's majority. When the larger group is deprived of proper wages their time spent at work is in vain and they are unable to stimulate the economy through new business endeavors or purchasing of goods.

Knowing that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has identified 100,000 children caught up in commercial sexual exploitation, we can already see a generation lost. Can you imagine the achievements that would come about if all of these children were able to have an education and a place in the job market?

I have been fortunate to witness the positive impact when trafficking survivors are able to receive treatment. When women who were once working the streets of Columbus entered Judge Paul Herbert's CATCH Program through Franklin County Municipal Court, they flourished. They were off the streets, entering rehabilitation programs and learning how to become productive citizens. I've seen the women reunified with their children, carrying the keys to their own apartments, and using their gifts to help encourage others who shared a similar past.

By voting to pass SB 235 you are taking a first step in helping survivors access to services which will help them become restored. Through rehabilitation we are cleaning up our streets, increasing the number of citizens who are educated, adding to the work force, and stimulating the economy.

For all of these reasons I urge you to vote for the passing of SB 235 out of commission so you can bring us closer to becoming the 44th state to make eradicating modern day slavery a priority by defining and criminalize Human Trafficking as a standalone felony.

Many Thanks,

Christina Conrad
The Salvation Army
Anti-Human Trafficking Specialist
(614)-358-2629
christina.conrad@use.salvationarmy.org