

Statement of David Dustin  
Supervisory Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Regarding Senate Bill 235

Good morning distinguished members of the Ohio Senate. My name is David Dustin and I am a supervisory special agent with the FBI assigned to the Toledo Resident Agency. My responsibilities include the supervision of the FBI criminal investigations conducted in the 19 counties comprising northwest Ohio. Also with me today is Special Agent James Hardie who currently serves as the Coordinator of the Northwest Ohio Violent Crimes Against Children Task Force (referred to simply as the Task Force). It is my pleasure to appear before your subcommittee this morning to discuss the issue of child prostitution in Northwest Ohio. I have a prepared statement which I will read into the record and then myself and Special Agent Hardie will take your questions. I would note however that my appearance here today is that of a fact witness to provide information about the observations of the task force since its inception in 2006. To the extent possible I will share details of some of our investigations but will refrain from providing any details which could compromise investigative techniques or human sources. In addition, we will limit our testimony to local matters impacting Ohio leaving the broader national perspective to representatives of the US Department of Justice or FBIHQ in Washington. Likewise, as federal agents we cannot endorse proposed State legislation on behalf of the FBI.

By way of background, in 2003 the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Crimes Against Children Unit, launched the Innocence Lost National Initiative designed to address the

In 2006, FBIHQ authorized the funding of an Innocence Lost Task Force in Toledo to address this growing problem. The Task Force currently consists of investigators from the Toledo Police Department, Lima Police Department, Fulton County Sheriff's Office and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation. One full-time FBI agent is assigned as Task Force Coordinator as well as an FBI Victim Witness Specialist.

Intelligence developed by the Task Force since its inception indicates that the juvenile prostitution activity in Northwest Ohio continues with numerous Toledo-based pimps known to be actively working prostitutes in Northwest Ohio as well as locations throughout the United States. To date, over 65 juvenile victims of prostitution have been identified or recovered by the Task Force. Many of these juvenile victims have endured brutal acts of violence, and have been forced to prostitute in locations throughout the United States. Several Toledo-based pimps have been charged in cases prosecuted outside the Northern District of Ohio Judicial District. Task Force investigative resources were utilized to support those investigations as well as current investigations pending in other jurisdictions.

During four nationwide stings conducted in support of the Innocence Lost National Initiative, dubbed "Operation Cross Country," the Task Force has been statistically within the top 5 of the approximately 30 participating FBI task forces nationwide in regards to arrests and child victims identified/recovered. During Operation Cross Country IV, the Task Force identified/recovered 7 juveniles which was the second highest number of juveniles identified/recovered by participating task forces.

The federal statutes used to prosecute those individuals involved in the forced prostitution of children include:

\*18 USC 1591, Sex Trafficking of Minors (10 or 15 year mandatory sentence depending on age of victim up to maximum of life)

\*18 USC 2423(a), Transportation of Minors for Prostitution (Mandatory minimum of 10 years to maximum of life)

\*18 USC 2423(b), Travel with Intent to Engage in a Sexual Act with a Minor, (mandatory minimum of 10 years to maximum of life)

\*18 USC 2241 and 2243, Sexual Abuse of Minors (15-30 year mandatory minimum depending on age of child up to life)

\*18 USC 2421 and 2422 (Mann Act), Mandatory minimum of 10 years if juvenile.

In addition to federal charges, the Task Force often utilizes state law to pursue prosecution of subjects involved in prostitution. The Task Force recently completed the investigation of a case in Fulton County in which 11 defendants, 7 of which were illegal aliens, were charged and have pled guilty to a number of State charges including compelling and promoting prostitution. One of the victims was a 13 year old who was being prostituted by a family member. A recent Toledo case led to State charges against a pimp who delivered a juvenile victim to a date he had arranged in which she would be paid for sex. The State charges led to a conviction for Promoting Prostitution and resulted in a sentence of three years of community control with no incarceration.

In addition to the above investigative efforts, the Task Force is very active in collaborating with local government and social service agencies involved in child prostitution outreach efforts. Recognizing the need to address this crime problem while supporting the victims, the Task Force employs a multi-disciplinary approach to dealing with this type of victimization. To that end, the Task Force maintains close partnerships with Lucas County Children's Services, Lucas County Juvenile Detention Center, and the Lucas County Juvenile Probation Department, who,

as a matter of practice, refer juvenile victims of prostitution so they might be interviewed by Task Force investigators. The Task Force has partnered with an excellent Toledo-based non-profit social service agency, Second Chance, to ensure victims are afforded all appropriate after care. Second Chance recently was awarded the FBI Director's Award for Outstanding Community Partner. The Task Force is also an active participant in the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition and has provided insight to the Ohio Attorney General's Trafficking In Persons Commission.

We will now take any questions you may have.