



# DOING THE MOST GOOD™

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April 14, 2010

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Re: Support for SB 235 To create the offense of Trafficking in Persons

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Good morning Chairman Grendell and Honorable members of the Ohio Senate Criminal Justice Committee. My name is Michelle Hannan. I am the Director of Professional and Community Services for The Salvation Army in Central Ohio. I have had the pleasure of working at The Salvation Army since 1996, where I have supervised the Army's social services programs in the areas of workforce development training, education, basic needs and most recently, our Anti-Human Trafficking Services. The fight to end human trafficking is closely aligned with the mission of The Salvation Army. In fact, just after The Salvation Army was founded in London, England in 1865, some of its first efforts centered on rescuing men, women and children who were trapped in sexual servitude or being exploited in factories. Today, The Salvation Army is involved in anti-human trafficking work around the globe and here in the US.

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In 2007, Columbus was selected by the Health and Human Services National Rescue and Restore Campaign as a city in need of an anti-human trafficking coalition. The Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition was launched in July 2007. Through The Salvation Army, I have had the great privilege of serving as the Coalition Manager for the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition since that time. Today, CORRC has grown to a network of over 60 organizations and over 200 individuals working together to combat human trafficking in Central Ohio. Our work is in four areas, providing services to trafficked persons, educating the public about human trafficking, supporting anti-trafficking legislation and forging connections with law enforcement.

Through the work of this broad network, we have learned a great deal about mobilizing a community response and helping trafficked persons. Since 2008, CORRC has provided training on human trafficking to over 4,000 members of the community. Our target audiences have included medical, social services and law enforcement personnel, the faith community, schools, colleges, immigrant groups, and concerned citizens. By training the public to recognize the signs of human trafficking, we greatly increase our ability to identify and rescue those who are trapped in labor or sexual servitude. This strategy, combined with direct outreach in communities that are likely to encounter human trafficking, has resulted in the identification and rescue of trafficking survivors in our community.



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  
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However, once trafficking survivors are identified, we find that our community's capacity to meet their complex needs is lacking. For example, Ohio is greatly lacking in residential treatment programs, trauma-specific counseling and legal assistance for trafficking survivors. While some trafficking-specific services, such as those operated by The Salvation Army, are present, many lack stable, ongoing funding sources. CORRC is addressing these gaps by working to help key sectors of the community build the skills they need to help survivors, through efforts such as our annual Unlocking the Chains conference and strategic planning to fill gaps in our service network.

This community response is having an impact. Since 2008, when CORRC began operating a 24/7 human trafficking hotline, The Salvation Army and CORRC have assisted 36 victims of trafficking. About 55% of those served were victimized by sex trafficking, and 45% were victims of labor trafficking. Just under 70% were female, and just over half were American born. Of those who were foreign born and trafficked into the US, the countries of origin included Thailand, Philippines, Mexico, Honduras, Japan and Chile.

It is on behalf of these survivors and the Coalition that I support the passage of Senate Bill 235. We are very pleased that the Ohio Senate is working to join the 43 other states that have made human trafficking a stand-alone felony. We believe that this bill will provide Ohio law enforcement with an important tool to identify, investigate and prosecute both sex and labor trafficking cases. Even more importantly, it will give a name to the terrible crimes that survivors have endured, sending the message that Ohio will not tolerate the enslavement of human beings.

CORRC supports S.B. 235 as an important first step in the development of a comprehensive human trafficking policy that addresses the "three pillars" of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the prosecution of traffickers, the prevention of trafficking, and protection of trafficking victims. We look forward to partnering with the Ohio legislature to forge stronger alignment between existing Ohio law and the TVPA, particularly in the area of the sex trafficking of minors.

Over the past several years, we have learned the impact of public awareness, training and building networks to combat trafficking. CORRC is committed to working with the Ohio Legislature to strengthen Ohio's prevention and protection efforts. We encourage the use of our existing educational and social service programs and support the development of these types of efforts around the state.

Thank you for your leadership in consideration of Senate Bill 235 and for giving me the opportunity to speak in support of this legislation.

Sincerely,



Michelle Hannan, MSW, LISW-S  
Director of Professional and Community Services