

Action Needed on Trafficking Bills

Background

SB 3108, Justice for Survivors of Trafficking, has progressed to third reading in the Senate. The vote may happen soon so please respond quickly. This bill changes the name of the Illinois 2006 Predator Accountability Act to the more transparent Trafficking Victims Protection Act. The bill amends the current law to allow family members, organizations that represent trafficking survivors, and government entities to bring a suit on behalf of survivors, who may have difficulty pursuing justice alone as they heal from trauma. The bill also clarifies that survivors of labor trafficking and involuntary servitude may bring a civil action, under existing law, against their traffickers.

HB5494, Increasing Opportunities for Survivors of Human Trafficking, has progressed to third reading in the House. Many trafficking victims are forced to commit a range of crimes by their trafficker, including driving without a license, trespassing, shoplifting. Often, trafficking victims do not fully understand their rights in court and will not disclose their status as a victim of trafficking during legal proceedings because they fear their trafficker. As a result, many victims of human trafficking are permanently criminalized for acts resulting from their own exploitation and abuse. This bill allows trafficking survivors to immediately seal their record at the end of their sentence if they can show that the offense was directly related to their experience as a trafficking victim.

Action

Contact your IL (Springfield) Senator regarding SB 3108. Contact your IL (Springfield) Representative regarding HB 5494.