

Andrea
Homestead Ministries, Survivor
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SB 71 Proponent

Chairwoman Humphries and Representatives,

I am reaching out to you today as a sex trafficking survivor. Some of the situations that sex buyers put me in are as follows: I was held hostage several times fearing for my life; I was physically assaulted; I was also sexually assaulted in ways I did NOT consent to. Because of the situations I was in, buyers took full advantage of my vulnerability to do whatever they wanted because there was nothing I could do. If a person committed these crimes against any other citizen, they would be charged with more than a misdemeanor.

Another great harm was the extreme moral guilt I had because a lot of these buyers are married. And yes, people who are trafficked have morals. I 100% support SB 71 because it will hold the buyer to a higher standard of accountability, and hopefully, reduce the belief that sex trafficking victims are expendable. When this bill passes, Kansas will be the fifth state to make buying sex a felony, showing that buying sex is NOT ok. And other states will follow. Also, it would be forward movement in irradiating sex trafficking.

I can attest to the FACT that if there are no buyers (demand), selling the vulnerable (supply) would not be profitable to the trafficker. Please do the right thing and make buying sex a felony in Kansas.

Thank you for your time.

Andrea