



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 71

February 28, 2025

Good morning Ladies & Gentleman. -

My name is Angela Boles – I am the founder & Exec Director of a long-term residential program here in Topeka for women who are victims of sex trafficking. Today I come before you to help you understand why this bill - making the buying of sex a crime – it is absolutely vital in the fight against sex trafficking.

EXPLOITING SEX is not a new problem...but one that goes back over 4000 years. .in fact – the first mention of it is in Genesis 19 in the bible. The story of Sodom & Gomorrah - When a Father ( Lot) offers his 2 virgin daughters to a group of men who came to demand sex.

In the bible the LORD calls this detestable and wicked – it is no different today. Sex is now a demand paid for with dollars at expense of tremendous complex trauma to the victims who's bodies are being sold.

Sex Trafficking today–is the exploitation of the most vulnerable in society. It extorts people who don't know their worth –who have been abused or abandoned in some way. Traffickers make promises that prey on their pain and use shame to control them.

SEX IS NOT A COMMODITY to be bargained away and SOLD for another person's gain, yet today it is a multi-billion dollar industry.

5.7 billion in the USA.

And please, we cannot confuse sex trafficking with consensual sex between 2 people.

SEX is not a crime – but DEMANDING SEX under the use of FORCE FRAUD or COERCION should be.

When a buyer through use of dollars is PAYING FOR SEX they are entering into unspeakable agreement of COERCION to have their needs met. Worldwide statistics overwhelmingly show that behind the SALE of a sexual act there is a person behind the scenes trafficking this individual.



Buyers just refuse to acknowledge this.

COERCION is persuading someone to do something they would not do otherwise through FORCE, PRESSURE, INTIMIDATION, THREATS, BULLYING – all forms of coercion.

I want you each to know that 90% of the survivors we have served were trafficked (sold) by a family member for sex since childhood. Generational vulnerabilities that a buyer obtains unfairly.

Ladies and Gentleman, the CRY OF THE MILLIONS of MEN WOMEN & CHILDREN are far reaching – these victims either have no choice, no voice, or they believe they have NO CHOICE and NO VOICE.

BUYERS HAVE A CHOICE – and guess what, they are NOT paying attention to the stats that overwhelmingly show that this is a crime with a VICTIM – they just keep buying.

TODAY, as elected officials you have a choice and we need you to say,

Yes to protecting victims,

Yes to curbing the demand and making it FELONY on first offense.

Yes to giving law enforcement the tools to fight trafficking in our community.

In our years of work with survivors we have heard so many horrific stories and I can tell you that the damage done to these women is life long. They require intense emotional, physical & mental health services and 24/7 care.

99% of the women we have served have complex mental health diagnosis due to trauma of being sexually abused/trafficked. So, I come to you today on behalf of the victims. Most everyone of the survivors we have served have asked the questions

WHY DIDNT ANYONE SEE ME? WHY DIDNT THEY ASK ..WHO DOES THIS?

- ☐ BW - She was 7 when it started - her parents needed drug money & money to live on. She escaped & arrived at P2R at age 23. She had been in/out of foster care in her teens during the incarceration of her

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parents only to return home after they were released & trafficking continued.

- ❑ JC - Her grandfather trafficked her mother, Mom knowingly allowed JC's uncle to trafficked her. Both were controlled by fear from Grandpa and the Uncle in fear they would harm her or her mom or her dog – which Grandpa killed in front of her at young age to keep her silent.
- ❑ AC - She ran away from home at age 16 angry at parents & needed a place to sleep – a woman offered to help her...and then she started to sell me, she was “rescued” by a gang who drew her in as a friend only to sell her again.
- ❑ SJ - Her parents were her traffickers – programed as young child, sold to men all through high school & college. “I never received a dime from anyone– it was all arranged by my family”
- ❑ DC - My husband was my trafficker, I thought I would lose my kids if I told.

Sadly, the reality is that buyers want to believe it is consensual transaction ...but rarely ever is it.

VICTIMS RARELY HAVE a CHOICE...buyers DO HAVE A CHOICE and it is clear that the only way we are going to stop this crime is by making BUYING a FELONY.

Please support this bill in its entirety. The education /diversion component is vital to changing the hearts and minds of those who believe that it is a victimless crime to buy sex.

Angela Boles

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*“No worldly pleasure or promise can rival the joy and adventure of accomplishing the divine tasks God has given you to do.”*