



KANSAS CHAPTER

The International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) Kansas Chapter is in support of SB 71- Increasing the criminal penalties for buying sexual relations, sponsored by Senator Dietrich.

The IAFN Kansas Chapter is comprised of forensic nurses located throughout Kansas. The IAFN Kansas Chapter has been involved in state-level efforts to address human trafficking both sexual exploitation and labor exploitation often with both occurring at the same time. The IAFN is a global organization of forensic nurses working alongside other professionals who support and complement the work of forensic nursing. The IAFN has approximately 6,000 members, including more than 140 nurses in Kansas. Forensic nurses are registered nurses or advanced practice nurses who received education and expert training to provide specialized care for people experiencing acute and long-term health consequences associated with victimization or violence and have unmet evidentiary needs relative to having been victimized or accused of victimization. Forensic nurses provide care within the intersecting systems of healthcare, community and legal environments for early identification of patients at risk of victimization or perpetration of violence.

A primary goal of forensic nursing programs is to raise public awareness that violence is a public health issue impacting healthcare systems and communities worldwide. To that end, forensic nurses promote interventions that prevent or confront the causes of violence and strengthen the healthcare response to those affected by violence.

Human Trafficking, especially sexual exploitation is a pervasive public health issue. Forensic Nurses play a role in providing victims of human trafficking appropriate health care and follow-up in connection to sexual exploitation. Historically, lawmakers have been focused on consequences for victims and traffickers, but addressing those purchasing sex decreases the need to supply it. SB 71 addresses the need to intercede by engaging in offender accountability and holding those who purchase sex to more severe consequences. Currently, human trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar industry, SB 71 addresses the economic demand by decreasing it, resulting in a decreased need for the exploitation of people to occur. The International Association of Forensic Nurses Kansas Chapter supports the implementation of SB 71.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of passing SB 71. Please contact the IAFN Kansas Chapter Board at ksiafntreasurer@gmail.com if we can be of further assistance in passing this important bill.