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**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee
In Support of SB59
February 2, 2021**

Chair Warren and Committee Members:

Our associations support SB59 which will change terminology in various statutes referencing victimization through illegal sex acts. We have been very involved over the past several years in improving our methods of addressing these troubling crimes and better supporting the victims of those crimes. Our associations have numerous members on the Human Trafficking Advisory Board. Through that work we have heard victims and victim service providers report how the terminology used is important to their recovery. The work of the Advisory Board and the dialog with human trafficking victims have led to this bill. It may seem like a trivial change. But it is clearly an important recognition that these victims are not experiencing a “relationship” with those who exploit them.

We encourage you to move this bill forward with a recommendation to pass.

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