



# Office of the Sheriff

**ANOKACOUNTY**  
**SHERIFF JAMES STUART**

March 13, 2018

Abigail Whelan  
MN State Representative  
439 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Ms. Whelan,

I am writing this letter to you in support of your pursuit of legislation that will train hotel staff in the identification and response to human trafficking.

As a part of an agency that investigates human and sex trafficking cases, we are pleased that others want to become involved in this process with us. We have been fortunate to already partner with local hotels/motels who have wanted training in this arena and we have provided it for them. This has provided us with more people in our community that are trained to recognize signs of human and sex trafficking. Those people who are trained are now extra sets of eyes and ears who are now knowledgeable enough to recognize the signs and know when to report them to law enforcement.

It has been our experience that the majority of sex and human trafficking takes place in hotels and motels. Thus, the training for those staff will be a great tool to assist law enforcement in addressing this problem and more importantly to be able provide assistance for the victims of these crimes. It is our hope that this legislation will assist us in that pursuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "WJH #230".

Lt. Wayne Heath #230  
Anoka County Sheriff's Office  
Criminal Investigation Division