



Southwest Crisis Center

SUPPORT. ADVOCACY. HOPE.

March 22, 2023

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Representative Tina Liebling
Chair, House Health Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Wiklund and Chair Liebling,

I'm writing on behalf of the Southwest Crisis Center in strong support of Senate File 2269/House File 2505, which will provide badly needed funds to help victims of labor trafficking.

The Southwest Crisis Center serves victims of human trafficking, sexual and domestic violence, stalking/harassment, and child abuse. We work to help individuals and communities flourish in Nobles, Rock, Pipestone, Cottonwood, and Jackson counties. Our agency is located in the heart of the counties with the second highest rate in the nation of unaccompanied minors. Many of these youth have experienced labor trafficking and without funds to help them they will continue to experience violence. Your support of this Senate File is support of them!

Human trafficking is a scourge on our state, and we as Minnesotans should commit to eliminating it in all of its forms. We applaud the efforts we have seen directed at holding both labor and sex traffickers accountable for their crimes. Ensuring that there is adequate support and help for the victims of these criminals is also a necessary piece of the puzzle. Victims of trafficking are often the most vulnerable amongst us, and deserve the helping hand this bill would help provide.

In closing, I encourage your support for SF2269/HF2505 and appreciate your attention to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Allan Bakke
Safe Harbor Regional Navigator
Southwest Crisis Center