

**Testimony against HF 91**  
**Providing Protection for Human Trafficking**  
**Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life**

HF 91 allows the most heinous of criminals - human and sex traffickers - to hide behind the doors of the unlicensed, uninspected abortion facility. These traffickers are happily watching this legislature remove all the protections we have in abortion law so that they can continue to traffic their victims.

We know that traffickers operate in our state. We know that women and girls continue to be victimized in our state. FBI data for 2019 shows Minnesota had the 2nd highest number of trafficking arrests of any state. Only Texas, with 5 times our population, had more.

Traffickers work in the shadows, getting away with their crimes when there is no spotlight. The average age for a trafficked girl in Minnesota is age 14. A trafficker who can simply drop a girl enslaved into sex trafficking off at an abortion facility with no other adult even knowing is someone who can keep doing his illegal business with impunity. Our parental notification laws offer a first layer of protection for these young victims by ensuring that **someone** other than the **trafficker** is aware of her situation. It opens the door – perhaps even just a crack – to let some light into her nightmare.

Parental notification would likely lead to the rescue of the girl. Whether she's from out of state or from Minnesota, our parental notification law - which is **still being appealed** to the State Court of Appeals - requires that the parents be informed. That phone call or certified letter notifying the parent could be the one thin thread of contact that lets the parents of a trafficked child know where their daughter is and if she's okay.

Additionally, the reporting requirements in our current law can throw up red flags for the abortion facility as well as for the public. If a girl is having multiple abortions, we can hope that the abortionist would see that as a trafficking indicator. The likelihood is that the trafficker is going to take her to different abortionists to further hide his crimes; that one question on the abortion report can throw a red flag for **someone** to see. The reporting requirements can also help policymakers and legislators; when we know that 40% of all abortions are repeat abortions, we can make better policy decisions to address the root causes – including the root cause of human trafficking.

This is not just an abortion issue - it is a public safety issue. Women – particularly women who are daily being victimized by human and sex traffickers, are begging you to vote NO on House File 91.

(Please see below for studies and documentation in support of our testimony)

Study and testimony showing the benefits of parental notification in fighting sex trafficking:

<https://illinoisfamily.org/life/trafficking-survivor-speaks-out-against-parental-notice-repeal/>

National trafficking statistics:

<https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2021/04/08/2206861/0/en/New-Report-on-Human-Trafficking-Statistics-and-Laws-By-State.html>