



Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman

Treasurer, Rep. Elliott Naishtat

LSG Floor Report for Emergency Calendar – Monday, March 16, 2015

| Bill | Caption | Committee | Analysis & Evaluation | Recommendation |
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| <p>HB 10 By Thompson, Senfronia, et al.</p> | <p>Relating to certain criminal and civil consequences of trafficking of persons, compelling prostitution, and certain other related criminal offenses; to the prevention, prosecution, and punishment of those offenses, and to compensation paid to victims of those offenses.</p> | <p>Homeland Security & Public Safety</p> | <p>HB 10 by Chairwoman Senfronia Thompson is a comprehensive bill that will protect adult and child human trafficking victims by providing more services and by enhancing the ability of police and prosecutors to apprehend and convict human traffickers. HB 10 would put into law the recommendations contained in the biennial report from the Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force. Created in 2009, the Task Force has submitted a report to the past two legislatures with recommendations. The vast majority of these recommendations have been adopted.</p> <p>This bill protects victims by improving the Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force, adding representatives in more state agencies and improving coordination between different agencies to best provide services for victims. It creates a Child Sex Trafficking Prevention Unit that will focus on victims under 18 and their offenders. HB 10 adds human trafficking language to mandated reporting requirements for educators, and it provides training for judges and judicial officers on human trafficking. The bill clarifies the definition of continuous trafficking of persons as well as the definition of human trafficking to make it easier to prosecute serial offenders, furthering the state’s goal to eliminate sex trafficking entirely. Further, current law precludes many trafficking victims from receiving compensation for “participating” in the very criminal behavior they were forced into (i.e. prostitution). HB 10 would allow victims forced into crimes to be able to collect from the state’s Compensation to Victims of Crime Fund.</p> <p>Texas is second only to California in the number of trafficking victims, and the city of Houston is thought to have the most trafficking victims of any U.S. city. Fortunately, because of the Legislature’s readiness to adopt recommendations from the Task Force, the state has quickly become a recognized leader in combating human trafficking. National organizations such as Polaris and Shared Hope have awarded Texas some of their highest rankings due to the state’s aggressive efforts. Passing HB 10 will significantly further the state’s goal of ending human trafficking once and for all.</p> <p>Chairwoman Thompson continues to be a leader on human trafficking legislation and a driving force on combating trafficking in Texas. Through her work as Co-Chair of the joint committee on Human Trafficking, Chair Thompson has ensured that we address the needs of human trafficking victims and punish traffickers.</p> | <p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p> |

OK for Distribution – Rep. Garnet Coleman