



October 24, 2017

To: The Honorable Representative David Murphy and Members of the Committee on College and Universities.

Regarding: AB 540

Dear Chairman Murphy and Committee Members,

I am representing the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin, a statewide advocacy ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We advocate for just policies, especially related to hunger and poverty and care for God's creation, based on our social statements and Christian scripture.

The Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin speaks in favor of AB 540. We have been leading educational forums on anti-sex trafficking around the state and upper peninsula or Michigan. We meet a lot of people doing similar work and so hear many stories. One of the striking stories I heard was several months ago in the Fox Valley. A member of Reach Counseling was giving a presentation on trafficking at a high school. After the forum, a boy walked up to her and said that the signs of trafficking she talked about described his friend, who suddenly was wearing more expensive clothing, was disappearing a lot, had an older boyfriend, etc. As a result, the girl's situation was investigated; she was indeed being trafficked and was rescued. Just think if that educational opportunity had not been offered.

Educational materials on human trafficking should be made part of a lot of curricula tailored to the audience. Truckers won't notice those the same sorts of signs. They might actually see signs that are actually more obvious but still not notice without training. It is easy to assume everyone selling sex is doing it because they want to. How important it is to require training materials for those professionals who are among those most likely to witness human trafficking.

This legislation will help create awareness among truckers in what sounds like a very fair process. It will help children and youth trapped in what we can easily label as modern day slavery, experiencing abuse beyond what most of us can imagine. Awareness growing among people in any group could also have a positive ripple effect in other areas in their lives.

Thank you for considering to support this bill.

Pastor Cindy Crane  
Director

*But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:16*