



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

March 14, 2019

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

Regarding: AB 22

Dear Chairman Murphy and Committee Members,

We are representing the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW), 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.

LOPPW speaks in favor of AB 22. We have been leading educational forums on anti-sex trafficking around the state and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We meet a lot of people doing similar work and so hear many stories. One of the striking stories we heard was from the Fox Valley. At the end of a presentation that a member of Reach Counseling gave to a local high school, a ninth grade boy approached her and said that the signs of trafficking she talked about described what he observed in one of his friends, 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 at that high school.

Who else will be saved if educational materials on human trafficking are made part of the curricula tailored to other audiences? Truckers won't notice the same types of signs that the 9th grade boy in the Fox Valley did. Truckers might actually observe signs that are more obvious but that they still may 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 professionals who are among those most likely to witness human trafficking.

This proposed legislation if passed will create awareness among commercial drivers in what sounds like a very fair process. Implemented, the law would have the potential to assist those drivers in helping trapped children and youth who are experiencing abuse beyond what most of us can imagine.

Thank you for considering supporting this bill.

Reverend Cindy Crane, Director
Kelsey Johnson, Hunger Fellow

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