



May 30, 2018

To: Chairperson Spiros and Members of the Committee on
Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Regarding: AB 171

Thank you all for being here today and taking the time to hear my testimony. My name is Kelsey Johnson and I work for the Lutheran office for public policy in Wisconsin. We are a statewide advocacy ministry of the evangelical Lutheran church in America. One of our priority areas is anti human trafficking. I am testifying in favor of assembly bill 171.

This legislation would close a loophole and add protection for those who are in the custody of law enforcement. Among those protected by this legislation would be those who are already victims of assault as well as victims of human trafficking who have sought help from law enforcement. The current loophole leaves room for individuals to be re-victimized by a complicated power dynamic.

As far as my office is aware, there is never a need for a law enforcement officer to have sexual intercourse or sexual contact beyond best practices with someone in their custody- consensual or otherwise. This would add a layer of trust as well as accountability with our law enforcement officers and protect those who are already potentially victims. Thank you for your support on this bill.