

# children at Risk

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### For the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session

**The Texas Model:** Texas has been talking about demand reduction for nearly four years. For even longer, we have been searching for methods to successfully connect prostituted individuals with services. The Texas Model accomplishes both goals while setting a new, innovative standard for other states to follow. Under this model, prostituted individuals (“sellers”) receive mandatory probation for their first prostitution offense and again on the first subsequent offense that reaches the felony level (usually the fourth arrest). This puts sellers in greater contact with state services, increases their chances of exiting the life of prostitution and helps relieve prison overcrowding. Conversely, the penalty for buyers increases to a state jail felony, which will both deter future buying and finally make good on our state’s commitment to decreasing the demand for trafficking victims.

**HB 403-Local Control and Increased School Trainings:** Texas created human trafficking curriculums for all school administrators in 2013, but did not mandate that districts use these trainings. By requiring the training of school board trustees and school superintendents, leadership can be engaged on and aware of the issue of human trafficking. These leaders may then better assess the need for additional trainings in their respective districts and implement them in a manner that best fits their districts’ needs, thereby vastly increasing the chances of detection and intervention without sacrificing local control.

**Deter Illicit Massage Businesses (IMBs):** IMBs are fronts for prostitution and sex trafficking. Because they are often cash-only businesses, they are also magnets for armed robbery. Over 35,000 Texas schoolchildren attend a school that is within 1000 feet of an IMB.<sup>1</sup> Most IMBs occupy leased commercial space, and many are adjacent to businesses frequented by families— sometimes even daycares. For their protection and for the safety of their customers, legitimate businesses need the ability to void their leases if the person or entity leasing to them also leases to an unlicensed IMB within the commercial vicinity.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://childrenatrisk.org/human\\_trafficking\\_near\\_schools\\_analysis/](http://childrenatrisk.org/human_trafficking_near_schools_analysis/)

**For questions or comments please contact:**

Mandi Sheridan Kimball, Director, Public Policy and Government Affairs, 713.869.7740 or [mkimball@childrenatrisk.org](mailto:mkimball@childrenatrisk.org), or

James “Jamey” Caruthers, Senior Staff Attorney, 713.869.7740 or [jcaruthers@childrenatrisk.org](mailto:jcaruthers@childrenatrisk.org)

CHILDREN AT RISK, 2900 Wesleyan, Suite 400, Houston, TX 77027

CHILDREN AT RISK, 2900 Live Oak Street, Dallas, TX 75204 • 214.599.0072

[www.childrenatrisk.org](http://www.childrenatrisk.org)