

OPERATION TEXAS SHIELD AGENDA FOR THE 86TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Promoting legislation, providing education and raising awareness to help prevent Human Trafficking.

INITIATIVE 1 - PREVENTION AND DEMAND REDUCTION:

THE “SMART ACT” (Senator Joan Huffman and Representative Rick Miller – **SB 923 Unanimously Approved (6-0)** in the Senate Senate referred State Affairs Committee on 3-14-19, **HB 2336** in the House referred to the Licensing and Administrative Procedures Committee where a hearing is expected in late March)

Standardizing the **M**inimum **A**ge **R**equirement for **T**exas Sexually Oriented Business Employees and Patrons at 21 (from the current age of 18). Let's get SMART about SOB's!

THE “TEXAS MODEL” (Representatives Sefronia Thompson **HB 15** and Joan Huffman **SB 20**)

OTS Developed legislative ideas intended to drive down demand by increasing law enforcement efforts and associated penalties toward buyers of commercial sex acts. Instead of promoting an alternative bill, OTS fully supports and collaborates with Children At Risk's "Texas Model" approach.

DECLARING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE (Rep. Rick Miller – **HCR 35**)

Passing a Legislative Resolution of this kind elevates the issue and increases the prioritization to develop necessary and appropriate action plans within various state and private entities (municipalities, ISDs, law enforcement, major corporations).

INITIATIVE 2 – SURVIVOR SUPPORT:

THE “CLEAN START BILL” (Senator Joan Huffman filed **SB 1801** and included “Clean Start” in **SB 20** and Representative Sefronia Thompson in **HB 1216** and is included in the anti-trafficking omnibus bill **HB 15**)

Allowing individuals convicted of prostitution (and other non-violent crimes) to clear their criminal record if they have been verified as victims of trafficking (now included as part of the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force omnibus bill), thus allowing them a true clean start.

INITIATIVE 3 – ENHANCING CRIMINAL PENALTIES:

(Representative Rick Miller **HB 2731** in the House and Senator Joan Huffman broken into 2 bills in the Senate as **SB 1802** and **SB 1803**)

Pimps Off The Streets is a bill that would end the revolving door that currently allows the significant majority of pimps convicted of promoting or compelling prostitution to receive deferred adjudication as their only sentence and never serving any jail time.

INITIATIVE 4 – AIDING LAW ENFORCEMENT:

SIX TEAMS FOR TEXAS (Senator Eddie Lucio - **SB 291**)

Establishes a state-wide DPS sex trafficking task force to ensure there is a dedicated team in each of Texas' 6 existing DPS regions. Each regional team will be properly equipped and trained to identify and locate trafficking victims and criminals. They will stand prepared to assist local law enforcement teams or take the lead if local teams lack the training and expertise. These officers will also maintain relationships with public and private victim advocacy and support organizations to ensure victims receive the assistance they need instead of jail time

#FightForUs