



Testimony on behalf of the
New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault
on S535,
Human Trafficking:
Hotline Publicity and Law Enforcement Training,
Senate Judiciary Committee
September 23, 2010

Testimony submitted by,
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Thank you to Senator Scutari and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for hearing this bill today. The New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault supports S535, which would direct the Attorney General to publicize information about human trafficking hotlines and mandate law enforcement training on responding to the needs of human trafficking victims. Many trafficking victims are survivors of sexual violence and have been forced into sex work by their captors. Many are in or come through New Jersey. The 22 sexual violence programs in New Jersey that NJCASA represent serves these survivors, as well as the many other survivors of sexual violence in New Jersey.

Trafficking victims are not like other crime victims. Their level of fear is often higher, they are more isolated than most victims of crime, and the traffickers often have additional holds over a trafficking victim, such possession of the victim's legal documents or access to the victim's family. This creates additional issues for law enforcement.

NJCASA has long advocated for additional training on sexual violence for law enforcement. Survivors of sexual violence often face many barriers in reporting sexual violence and during the investigation of sexual violence due to a lack of understanding of the dynamics of sexual assault. We are working closely with law enforcement to develop training to enhance the response of law enforcement to survivors of sexual violence. Similar training on trafficking would enhance law enforcement's ability to effectively respond to trafficking victims, particularly trafficking victims who have been trafficked for sex work. Better trained law enforcement can encourage trafficking victims to come forward and participate in investigations.

On behalf of the 22 sexual violence programs in New Jersey and countless survivors of sexual violence, we urge you to pass S535 and take steps towards better support and services for victims of trafficking. Thank you to Senators Kean and Cunningham for sponsoring this legislation.