



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

101 East 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907)276-4441
March 14, 2014

Senator John Coghill
State Capitol Room 119
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Statement for Alaska Senate Judiciary Committee Regarding SB 170

Dear Senator Coghill;

The Anchorage Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) received a request from the office of Senator Berta Gardner for information which may be helpful in the Alaska Senate Judiciary Committee's consideration of SB 170. In response, the FBI drafted the enclosed statement. The FBI takes no position on the proposed legislation. If you have any questions or require additional information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Deirdre L. Fike
Special Agent in Charge



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Investigations involving child prostitution, as well as adults who are forced into prostitution, are priorities for the FBI in Alaska. Such cases are investigated under the FBI's crimes against children and human trafficking programs.

By definition, human trafficking crimes involve compelling or coercing a person's labor, services, or commercial sex acts. The coercion can be subtle or overt, physical or psychological. Notably, because of their vulnerability, where minors are offered for commercial sex, statutes do not require proof of force, fraud, or coercion.

Contrary to some misconceptions, human trafficking crimes do not require any smuggling or movement of the victim. While undocumented migrants can be particularly vulnerable to coercion, nationally approximately 33 percent of victims are Americans.

Human trafficking is one of the world's fastest growing criminal activities, generating billions of dollars of profit each year. In response, the FBI has increased its efforts to disrupt human trafficking operations worldwide and to free its victims. Our efforts are focused on combating the exploitation of individuals, including those who are forced into prostitution. Nationally, the FBI participates in 88 human trafficking task forces.

In Alaska, the FBI and the Anchorage Police Department have partnered on a task force to combat the sex trafficking of children and adults. Since 2009, the FBI-led task force has investigated 17 cases in Alaska involving human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Victims in these cases came from diverse backgrounds, but investigations have shown a disproportionate number of Alaska Native girls exploited by sex traffickers in Alaska.

FBI Victim Specialists in Alaska and throughout the nation work with human trafficking victims, including victims who have been forced into prostitution, to advise them of their rights

as victims but also to assure they get the help they need to address their short-term and long-term needs – like legal services, housing, employment, education, job training, and child care.

In order to bring state and local law enforcement, as well as community resources to bear against the problem of sex trafficking, the FBI offers our law enforcement counterparts – as well as non-governmental organizations, including non-profits – human trafficking awareness training. In Alaska the FBI engages in extensive community outreach to raise awareness of the signs of sex trafficking and to encourage people and community organizations serving at risk populations to report suspected cases to the FBI. We also have partnered with the Alaska State Troopers to provide training, focused on the sex trafficking of children and adults, to troopers, police officers, non-profit organizations, and others around the state.

The FBI remains committed to utilizing our federal jurisdiction over crimes involving human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with the Anchorage Police Department and the Alaska State Troopers to combat sex trafficking in Alaska by rescuing child and adult victims and bringing pimps, madams, and their associates to justice.