

Date: _____

Representative Jim Cox
Capitol Office
209 Ryan Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2129

Dear Representative Cox,

Representative Robert Merski is the prime sponsor for H.B. 1513 entitled “An act providing for the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Notification Act; imposing duties on the Department of Labor and Industry; and prescribing penalties”. On May 29, 2019, this bill was referred to the Department of Labor and Industry. The bill was co-sponsored by Representative Pat Harkins, the Democratic Committee Chair of Labor and Industry.

The current signage in Pennsylvania rest stops is located only in the lobby and does not include information on what and how human trafficking occurs. The National Human Trafficking Hotline identified in 2018 that 268 victims were identified in Pennsylvania. Victims are often transported from one city to the next on Pennsylvania highways and “sold” multiple times.

I would encourage you to utilize artwork on the sign that depicts situations in which human trafficking happens. We are concerned that people who see the current rest stop signage will not understand the extreme danger a victim who is being trafficked faces. Signs need to be educational as well as provide the National Human Trafficking Hotline number. Signs should also be posted in both the men’s and women’s restroom stalls. Often when a victim is being transported and is allowed to use a restroom in a rest stop, the only moment they will have to see the sign is in the privacy of the stall. The sign in the stall, above the sink or above the hand dryer will save lives.

Please work to hold hearings on this life-saving legislation that will result in a favorable outcome to send the bill to the House for consideration.

Thank you for your work in changing the rest stop signage and saving lives.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____
