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1-25-25

Tod Fossetta  
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620 Railroad Ave.  
Homestead, MT 59242

Dear Senators and Representatives:

My name is Tod Fossetta and I am presenting myself to this committee to share testimony regarding SB 2220.

I have over 30 years experience working with domestic violence and sex trafficking victims, organizations, shelters and other support services. I am an Ambassador for Shared Hope International, a sex trafficking prevention organization with over 1000 trained ambassadors, and one of the nation's leading policy and political action teams. I have worked with organizations including the Pierce County Coalition for Domestic Violence and the Women's Crisis Shelter in Williston, ND. I have training through Shared Hope, Operation Underground Railroad and the Association for the Recovery of Children. I am a US Army Veteran, and since the murder of my sister in an act of domestic violence in 1984, I believe the Lord has called me to this vocation. I am the Founder of Archangel Miniustries, through which I work with victims, organizations and church groups. One of my primary goals is to educate men on the dangers of pornography, buying sex and the effect it has on them, the community, and the women exploited for those uses.

I believe training is an essential tool in the fight against Human Trafficking. Being able to recognize the signs of trafficking as well as investigative and documentation training would make our law enforcement professionals much more effective. There is a broad spectrum of training objectives and availability in our nation. Some jurisdictions do HT training in their recruit training, while others have none in their departments.

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There is a wide array of advocate-based training, such as Shared Hope International. These trainings are geared towards community involvement, social services, church organizations and education professionals. While effective in increasing awareness and understanding, they do not meet all the needs of law enforcement. In my opinion there is a disconnect between the two at times.

Law enforcement needs specialized training. They must be able to identify a situation, investigate with the intent of rescuing the victim and obtaining a conviction for the trafficker, intervene to remove the victim safely, and be able to treat the victim in a healthy manner until they can be placed with victim professionals. This is a lot to expect without extensive and recurring training. I can only assume that many of the smaller departments would be hard pressed to do this without State assistance, both in training access and funding.

I believe this bill would be a step in the right direction to more effectively address human trafficking in North Dakota. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Tod Fossetta