

My name is Danielle John. I am an expert survivor of human trafficking. I have been involved in more ways than I can count with combating human trafficking across our state and our country. I decided 6 years ago to take a step back from speaking and focus on my own recovery and my family. However, when things like this come up, I take it upon myself to help educate and make a difference. When I was doing trainings and speaking engagements I often got asked what can we do to make a difference?? My answer was always the same. It starts with our youth today. We must raise our children to know what healthy relationships are. We need to have those hard conversations with our youth. We cannot shield them from the reality of the world we live in. Now obviously these conversations must be age appropriate. But if we start this communication when they are young, the hope is that if and when something comes up, they will feel comfortable to come to us. Since our youth are required to attend school until the age of 16, this bill gives us the opportunity to educate and make them aware of what human trafficking is and how it could affect them. We don't always know what is going on in someone's home or what their future holds, but the hope is that if there is a youth affected by this, the education that is provided by the school will give them the resources they need to recognize it. I look forward to speaking with you all and answering any questions that may arise.