

Good morning Madame Chair Larson and members of the Judiciary Committee. For the record, my name is Senator Bob Paulson, and I'm from District 3 in Minot.

This morning I bring to you SB 2220, a bill to allow for the training of law enforcement in the detecting, responding to, and investigating a crime involving human trafficking, prostitution, or commercial exploitation of children.

Since law enforcement officers are often the first point of contact for victims, it's important for them to be able to recognize the signs of trafficking. Additionally, it is critical that law enforcement agencies and personnel understand how to investigate trafficking and eliminate wrongful prosecution of child victims. And that is the purpose of this bill.

The organization that asked me to bring this bill will be testifying after me, and they are much more equipped to answer specific questions on the language of the bill.

Madam Chair and members of the committee, that concludes my testimony and I would be happy to stand for any questions.