

**RE: Support for HB19-1051, Human Trafficking Bill**

To the Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

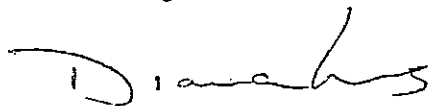
The Northeast Colorado Coalition against Trafficking (NECCAT) would like to urge consideration and passage of Rep. Terri Carver's bill HB19-1051, requiring expanded training regarding human trafficking. NECCAT is a grass-roots coalition that was formed more than 5 years ago to address trafficking in our area – north of Denver metro, east of I-25 to the WY and KS borders. We consist of 7 law enforcement-related and 35 community groups that have reason to address trafficking; to provide public and targeted education; to advocate for and provide needed resources for victims and survivors. In addition to these, our strength lies in communication and non-resource duplication.

In our multiple roles, we consistently see the strong need for public awareness, profession-specific training, and overcoming of barriers to understanding. We see officers who don't believe it happens here, hotels unsure of what to do, and teachers who can't professionally address this issue. This bill could help address those needs. The CO Human Trafficking Council is exemplary in their train-the-trainer curriculum (and other communication work), developing and implementing them on a broad sector basis.

Human trafficking is usually multi-jurisdictional, especially in rural areas. We thus 'see' the lack of training, lack of belief (that trafficking is here), and lack of coordination between/within groups - even law enforcement agencies. When we do public education, we find that when a person listens and can consider information, beliefs and understanding change. So getting the info and training out there becomes critical to change.

Please support and vote 'yes' for this bill. We are just scratching the surface of this issue and coordinated response is vital. Using a strong state agency like the CO HT Council to their best strength is a win/win!

We would welcome inquiry as to our perspective, experience, or ideas toward this or any other human trafficking issues.



Diana Laws, Coordinator

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January 17, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing a letter of support for HB 19-1051 sponsored by State Representative Terri Carver. I am writing this on behalf of the Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado. I am the past Chairman of our organization as well as a board member for the Task Force and Restore Innocence.

Our Task Force has been active in promoting awareness surrounding the issue of human trafficking for 10 years. Aside from hosting our annual symposium and legislative day at the state capital, we provide trainings in the community to businesses, schools, churches and non-profit organizations.

We collaborate with local and federal law enforcement and victim advocates. Through these agencies we are able to provide services for victims of human trafficking. We are fully aware of the vulnerabilities our school-age children face by the devious approaches of traffickers. Our middle school and high school students can be preyed upon through various schemes. We know they use devices to reach our youth through apps on their cell phones, computers, laptops and tablets. They also can be coerced by recruiters who may lavish these children with gifts, flattery, affection and peer pressure. There are reported incidences of human trafficking in most every high school in Colorado.

Last year alone the Task Force did school trainings for Districts 11, 20 and 38. These trainings were available to teachers, administrators and parents. We will remain just as dedicated this year on bringing focused HT trainings to these school districts and more in our region. At the same time, the need for training throughout our state remains a pressing issue. I highly encourage you to consider this proposed bill and see Colorado vigilantly protecting our vulnerable population groups and maintain leadership in the modern day anti-trafficking movement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Roger Patrizio*

Roger Patrizio

HB 19 10-51

Comments

Thomas Acker, president Western Slope Against Trafficking, local initiative.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District we have faced certain challenges that this bill will address.

Western Slope against Trafficking has been meeting since 2014. In that time we have been offering trainings in human trafficking based upon the Laboratory to Combat Human trafficking's "4-P's" approach. In 2017, several of us have been trained to train community members in what we call "HT 101", created by the training taskforce of the CHTC.

This 2-hour long training is designed to create an awareness of the likelihood of encountering HT in your community, what it may look like ( i.e. sex, labor , minors ,etc.) and recommendations of what to do in the event you encounter it.

One of our greatest challenges is the vicious cycle we experience in the western slope, a product of not being trained to recognize and prosecute HT. In ours and other rural communities in CO, the perception exists that there is no HT occurring in Grand Junction. Because we lack accurate data to prove it is occurring; therefore law enforcement agencies (over-worked, under-manned, etc.) are hesitant to dedicate training hours for human trafficking training; therefore local officers may not readily identify HT when encountered and so not list it in their NIBRS report as such, thus reinforcing the perception that HT is not an issue in the western slope.

Another perception we struggle to dispel is that there are no resources for rural communities to prosecute a HT case if one is encountered. IN fact the Colorado State Patrol has a 19 member squad dedicated to the fight against HT and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation has two full-time human trafficking investigators. The need to disseminate such information to our rural communities is also what make passage of this bill so urgent.

In 2017, the CO Human Trafficking Council voted in support of HB 19 10-51, or its equivalent then. We intend to take it up in the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the council and I expect we will vote in support of it then.

A survey of 400 Coloradans found that they thought they knew about HT but, when pushed, they had confused information about it. They also assumed that, based on their lack of understanding of the crime, it does not occur in their communities.

The Department of Public Safety has one ½ FTE dedicated to coordinating the current 56 trainers working throughout the state. But that person only is "on the clock" two days out of the week. This past week, I had need of consulting with her in order to provide information to my local initiative regarding expanding our trainings out here to include law enforcement. I had to wait until the following day for her to provide the necessary information to move forward in our community.

The small amount of funding that this bill proposes would make a world of difference in assisting the volunteer community members in being more effective in the fight against Human Trafficking.

Thomas Acker, Western slope Against Trafficking

1-15-19



January 16, 2018

Statement in Support of HB 19-1051

To the Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am an attorney in Glenwood Springs (and live in Rifle) where I hold four municipal prosecutor contracts between Palisade and Carbondale. I have been a prosecutor since I joined the USAF in 2002. During my career in the USAF, we began mandatory annual training regarding human trafficking. Prior to the training, I was completely oblivious to the topic. When I began prosecuting minor offenses in municipal court in Rifle, I began having cases where I saw red flags—a man who brought in his boss to interpret, a couple at a local truck stop having a dispute, a group of men living in a home with no connection to each other except that they all stated that this one woman recommended they live there. I was seeing these cases only after people were ticketed—for underage possession of alcohol or fighting. I was wondering what questions were being asked during the initial contact and hoping that law enforcement would start seeing the red flags and asking questions that I wanted to ask.

I raised the issue with Rifle Chief of Police, Tommy Klein, and he agreed that I might be on to something. We are a very small community of 8,000 people on I-70 between Grand Junction and Glenwood Springs. We have a secluded truck stop right next to the Colorado River off of I-70. We have many hotels. We have industries that operate in very secluded areas. Chief Klein and I agreed that training on the topic would be beneficial to the police department and embarked on a plan. With the help of Beth Klein, another attorney who lives in Carbondale, we pulled together the Western Slope Human Trafficking Summit in Rifle which was held on January 11—National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The turn-out was over 100 participants from law enforcement, prosecutor's office, legal offices, hotel staff, hospital employees, clergy and community members—with just one-month's notice over the holidays no less. We have received much feedback and it was all very positive. Overall, I think (just like I) most people were shocked and blind to the topic, the vulnerable populations and the level and types of coercive behavior that exists. The only reason we were

able to provide the training for free was due to the donors and graciousness of our speakers. We provided 6.75 hours of curriculum and 14 speakers from New York and Florida and Denver to Grand Junction and Cortez.

Our law enforcement, teachers, ER staff, hotel workers and direct service providers are on the front lines of this issue. These people can effect great change with more knowledge and education on the subject. They can identify and help victims. They can identify people from vulnerable populations and take preventive measures to stop the individual from becoming a victim.

Until I received the training, I did not realize the extent of human trafficking across the globe and especially in the First World. I implore you to pass this legislation because it is these smaller communities with significantly less resources that will be able to take advantage of the free training. Unfortunately, I believe that the Colorado statistics show that our small, resort communities and agricultural areas have some of the highest rates of human trafficking. The training can lead to a community collaboration which can make human trafficking impossible. That is a goal that everyone can agree on.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

LAW OFFICE OF ANGELA ROFF, PC

  
Angela M. Roff

Anne E. Darr  
Coordinator  
Front Range Anti-Trafficking Coalition

January 17, 2019

House Judiciary Committee  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

To the Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

In my capacity as Coordinator for the Front Range Anti-Trafficking Coalition (FRAC), I am writing to you to express my support for HB19-1051, The Colorado Department of Public Safety Human Trafficking-Related Training Act.

The Front Range Anti-Trafficking Coalition's mission is a collaboration of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working together with organizations (Non-Governmental Organizations/Service Providers) providing comprehensive victim-centered services to trafficking victims in order to: Prevent victimization through education and outreach; Identify, rescue, and restore victims of Human Trafficking; Proactively investigate, identify, apprehend and prosecute those engaged in Human Trafficking. The FRAC meets on a quarterly basis and includes platforms from survivors, law enforcement, prosecution, service providers, and human trafficking task forces from across the Front Range.

The human trafficking-related training that this bill would require the Department of Public Safety to provide would greatly benefit our state in combating this terrible crime.

Ensuring that law enforcement officers are trained to identify and respond to instances of human trafficking will empower more law enforcement officers to effectively participate in this effort. Without in any way diminishing the efforts of those officers who focus specifically on human trafficking, we need those efforts to be complemented and amplified by widespread training of law enforcement officers. This was proven to be beneficial following a training that was conducted to patrol officers at the Adams County Sheriff's Office. The next day after the training, patrol officers encountered a situation that they otherwise would not have recognized as Human Trafficking. The 16 year old victim was successfully recovered and the subjects were prosecuted.

In addition, this bill would help provide opportunities for training to school personnel. The threat that traffickers pose to our children in school is real, so giving school personnel the resources to prevent such activity will only make our schools safer.

Providing actionable training to key actors on human trafficking is a good idea for bettering our state. I respectfully urge you all to support HB19-1051.

Very Respectfully,



Anne E. Darr  
Coordinator  
Front Range Anti-Trafficking Coalition