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State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee
Colorado State Senate
Seventy-Second General Assembly

March 20, 2019

RE: SB 19-149
Concerning the Continuation of the Colorado Human Trafficking Council

Chairman Foote and Members of the Committee,

I write to you today in support of SB 19-149 and the continuation of the Colorado Human Trafficking Council (CHTC). I am Senior Deputy District Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial District and based on appointment from Governor Hickenlooper I have served as the statewide District Attorney representative to the CHTC since 2017. I was honored to be elected Chair of the Council by its membership in September of 2018. I had hoped to testify before you today in support of this bill but am in a sexual assault trial in Boulder County.

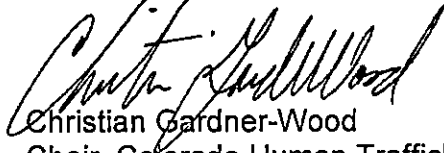
The CHTC has existed since October of 2014 and has worked tirelessly in the ensuing years to combat human trafficking in Colorado. The CHTC membership includes a broad and diverse cross-section of individuals who are working to combat human trafficking in Colorado. The CHTC allows these individuals who are dedicated to addressing the problem of human trafficking to come together as experts and work together to provide direction to the state on the varied issues that arise in the on-going struggle to eliminate human trafficking. The CHTC has produced four annual reports, collected and reported on data regarding human trafficking, worked on statutory changes in the area of human trafficking, created standards and training for those dealing with victims of human trafficking, identified prevention strategies for human trafficking, and developed a plan for a statewide public awareness campaign.

The CHTC membership has voted overwhelming that they believe the Council should continue its work and the members met at an annual retreat in January and identified areas where the CHTC should continue its work and continuing providing leadership for the state in the area of human trafficking. Specifically, continuing to address ways to identify and prosecute labor trafficking, continuing the data collection and research of human trafficking in our state, creating advanced trainings for service providers,

translating trainings into other languages, surveying victims and service providers on concepts of justice within trafficking cases, identifying gaps in services for victims of trafficking, and finally the Council is very eager to implement the statewide public awareness campaign that has been developed.

I am honored to Chair the CHTC and to be able to work with the dedicated and diligent members of the CHTC and the staff of the Division of Criminal Justice. I hope you will see the importance of the continuation of the CHTC and vote yes on SB 19-149.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christian Gardner-Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Christian Gardner-Wood
Chair, Colorado Human Trafficking Council