

National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



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NCJW STL leads the way in creating state law to help trafficking victims

March 1, 2018; St. Louis, MO – NCJW STL is excited to announce the governor will sign legislation today that will require certain establishments to post the national human trafficking hotline number. The posting of this number will allow victims to get immediate help as well as raise public awareness about trafficking in our state.

NCJW STL brought the human trafficking legislation to Representative Cloria Brown in 2014 who agreed to sponsor the bill. The following year after conversations with NCJW STL, Senator Robert Onder agreed to support this legislation as well. Representative Patricia Pike agreed to carry the bill this session at the request of Representative Brown. NCJW STL thanks the outstanding bipartisan work of the legislature to make this the first bill passed this session. “We have worked for three years to get this bill passed and we’re so excited Missouri is taking this important step to combat Human Trafficking,” said Dianna Fine, NCJW STL Human Trafficking co-chair.

NCJW STL identified Human Trafficking as a significant problem in the state of Missouri and as a result, established a large cohort of volunteers to create awareness and develop policies to assist victims. According to the Department of Justice, St. Louis has been identified in the top 20 jurisdictions for human trafficking.

The required posting of the hotline number will make it easier for victims to have access to the necessary information to seek help in escaping their traffickers. Missouri joins 28 other states and the District of Columbia in requiring or encouraging hotline numbers to be posted.

The signing of this bill coincides with the U.S. House of Representatives passing H.R. 1865, the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA). Congresswoman Ann Wagner (MO-02) sponsored this bill which will give federal, state and local prosecutors the tools they need to hold websites accountable for supporting the sale of sex trafficking victims. Congresswoman Ann Wagner stated, “FOSTA will produce more prosecutions of bad actor websites, more convictions, and put more predators behind bars. It will give victims a pathway to justice and provide a meaningful criminal deterrent, so that fewer businesses will ever enter the sex trade, and fewer victims will ever be sold.”

For more information or interviews, please contact Stacy Kress, NCJW Marketing Manager at 314-993-5181 or skress@ncjwstl.org.

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NCJW St. Louis is inspired by Jewish values to advance social and economic justice for all women, children and families.