



Rev. Dai Morgan
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Dear Representative xxx:

This letter is to encourage you, as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, to move SB554 “Safe Harbor in Human Trafficking” out of committee, to be considered by the whole chamber. The bishops of the three United Methodist Conferences in Pennsylvania expressed support for this bill in a letter to Senator Greenleaf, over a year ago, while the bill was under construction.

Following is part of that original letter:

We would like to affirm the intention of [this bill] to develop statewide protocols to provide services and protection for child victims of human trafficking. Furthermore, we recognize the need in this bill to establish funding, law enforcement training and public awareness in support of this effort.

We do not believe that children trapped in human trafficking are criminals. Placing them in the juvenile justice system is inappropriate. This results in re-victimization. We support the bill’s intention to place such children in the care of the Department of Human Services. No system is perfect and there are likely to be failures in the child welfare system. However, over time, we would expect the Department of Human Services to provide the most satisfactory services for child victims of human trafficking.

SB554 passed unanimously in the Senate on April 25, 2017. We look forward to the House being given the opportunity to consider this bill. We hope to see it passed into law.

With prayers and best wishes,

Dai Morgan, Coordinator
United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania