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**Testimony to the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee  
In Support of SB61  
March 7, 2013**

Chairman Rubin and Committee Members,

The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Sheriffs Association, and Kansas Peace Officers Association strongly supports SB61. During the last session, a joint meeting of the Senate Judiciary and House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committees were briefed on the problem of human trafficking in Kansas and the low ranking our statutes received in the ability to address this crime. A crime often committed against our children and too often against adults in our society who are vulnerable to manipulation and control. When these crimes are perpetrated against our children they put our children at great risk of exploitation of the worst kind. These victims are many times left robbed of their dignity, of a key portion of their childhood, of critical years of their education, and placed in an environment that will put them in great risk well into their adult lives. There will likely not be a bill this year with more importance to at risk youth in Kansas.

A tremendous amount of time has been put into the development of this bill by the Office of the Attorney General in a very inclusive process. That process represented law enforcement, prosecutors, victims advocacy, youth services and many other Kansas professionals dealing with the investigation, prosecution, and the personal devastating aftermath of this criminal activity. Our review of the bill indicates it has been very thoroughly put together and covers all aspects of human trafficking including not only the criminal provisions but also how we deal with the victims of these crimes and how we stay ahead of the changing environment in future years.

This bill creates a long term solution for addressing this crime. These include solutions that brings the many professional services together in a collaborative effort to identify the perpetrators and to rescue and assist the victims. It also provides the mechanisms for education and prevention tools to the people of our state. It also assures prosecutors and law enforcement have the statutory authority they need to resolve these crimes quickly with significant and certain sanctions for those that invade the innocence of the children and others vulnerable to this type of modern day slavery. We encourage you to recommend this bill favorably for passage.

Ed Klumpp

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