



JILL BILLINGS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Testimony in support of Assembly Bill 681
Predator Accountability Act

Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice

January 23, 2014

Good morning Chairman Kleefisch and members of the committee. I thank you for holding a public hearing on AB 681, which creates a civil cause of action for victims of human trafficking. The Predator Accountability Act was inspired, in part, by the June Kjome Social Justice Conference held last November in La Crosse. I was asked to draft this bill so victims and survivors of human trafficking would have the legal and financial means with which to get their lives back on track.

Under this bill, a person who is the victim of an act of commercial sexual exploitation may bring a civil action against the person who committed the act exploitation. Commercial sexual exploitation includes human trafficking, sexual exploitation of a child, soliciting a child for prostitution or sex trafficking of a child, possession or production of child pornography, soliciting a prostitute, pandering, or keeping a place of prostitution. If the victim prevails in his or her action, he or she may collect damages any revenues earned by the actor related to his or her commercial sexual exploitation of the victim.

Many people do not know that human trafficking is the second largest criminal activity in the world - generating \$32 billion dollars in profits. Human trafficking is also a growing problem in Wisconsin. This bill would enable the victim to seek financial compensation for their injuries while holding the perpetrator legally responsible for their actions. In light of the enormous profits made and the damage inflicted upon victims, a civil suit with an award of monetary damages will help many victims in the process of recovery.

Thank you.