



SB 540/HB 851 Human Trafficking

The Florida State Oriental Medical Association supports SB 540/HB 851 which are identical bills that:

Requires owner or operator of a public lodging establishment to train certain employees & create certain policies relating to human trafficking by specified date; requires DCF, in consultation with the FDLE and AG, to establish a certain direct-support organization; requires that criminal history record of person who is convicted of, or enters plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, soliciting, inducing, enticing, or procuring another to commit prostitution, lewdness, or assignation be added to Soliciting for Prostitution Registry; provides duties of Division of Hotels & Restaurants of DBPR, clerk of court, & FDLE; provides certified law enforcement officer training requirements.

Rational for Support:

☑ Florida is third highest for Human Trafficking Cases reported by state.

(<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states>)

☑ “The Legislature finds that human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. Victims of human trafficking are young children, teenagers, and adults. Thousands of victims are trafficked annually across international borders worldwide. Many of these victims are trafficked into this state. Victims of human trafficking also include citizens of the United States and those persons trafficked domestically within the borders of the United States. The Legislature finds that victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor.” Chapter 787
<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes>

☑ In addition to PTSD, victims of human trafficking have been found to suffer from other anxiety and mood disorders including panic attacks, obsessive compulsive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, and major depressive disorder. (Alexander, Kellogg, & Thompson, 2005; APA, 2005; Family Violence Prevention Fund, 2005; Zimmerman et al., 2006).

☑ “Several risk and protective factors exist for those falling victim to human trafficking. Risk factors include the following demographics and experiences. Risk factors, which are not limited to the list provided, may change over time with additional data: Low Socioeconomic status (SES), Previous or current substance abuse, Social vulnerability (e.g., children, females, LGBTQ+ individuals), Limited education.” (<https://ct.counseling.org/2017/10/counselingsurvivors-human-trafficking>)

FSOMA proudly supported these bills focusing on ways to end human trafficking and support those impacted by human trafficking.

Please contact us below with any questions or concerns.

Thank you

YourFSOMA

<https://www.fsoma.org/contact-us>