Legislation for Buying Sexual Relations

THE DEMAND

* Demand is the driving force behind trafficking.
* Individuals who purchase sex are the ones who fuel the industry. Most people who are being trafficked often don’t have a choice or a way out. Those who buy sex ***always*** have a choice.
* If there was no demand (no buyers) there would be no business, therefore, no more victims.

WHO BUYS SEX?

* “About 25% of active buyers report purchasing weekly or monthly, and their activity accounts for nearly 75% of market transactions. These buyers are more likely to have started at a young age and with the help or encouragement of others in their social networks.”
* “On average, US sex buyers spend more than $100 per transaction. Based on the recorded spend data and computed annual transactions for different groups of buyers, this survey estimates the annual size of the US commercial sex market at $5.7 billion”

WHAT WILL THIS BILL DO?

* It will take the current bill stating that “buying sexual relations is a class A misdemeanor” and make it a severity level 9 personal felony on the first offense. This bill will also take the minimum fine to $2,000 and the maximum fine to $10,000 as opposed to the bill that stands now holding a minimum fine of $1,200 and a maximum of $5,000.
* *Only about 6% of men who purchase sex illegally report ever having been arrested for it. When buyers do perceive that risk, it can lead them to alter their activities. High-frequency buyers are more sensitive than low-frequency buyers to police presence and are more likely to react by shifting to a different location and diminishing their behavior.* ***About one-quarter of buyers “strongly agree” that “if the risk of arrest is so high, I might stop****.” - Demand Abolition*

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE IN TEXAS

* On September 1, 2021 Texas became the first state in making buying sex a felony. The old law stated that buying sex was a class B misdemeanor and the new law has now stated that buying sex means so much more.
* *“We know the demand is the driving force behind human trafficking,” said the bill’s primary author, State Rep. Senfronia Thompson (D) of District 141, which includes northeast Houston and Humble. According to KPRC Click2Houston, she asserted that if the state could “curb or stamp out the demand end of it, then we can save the lives of numerous persons.”*