**Talking Points**

**2025 Legislation Proposed: First Time Buying Sex is a Felony**

**GOAL**: Motivate listeners to contact their representatives in both the Kansas House and Senate, urging them to support legislation making sex buying a felony for a first offense.

**AUDIENCE**: General population with little to no background knowledge about sex trafficking in Kansas.

**KEY TAKEAWAY**: Sex trafficking is a problem in Kansas. Sex buyers create the demand that motivates and enables traffickers to do this business. Kansas citizens should in asking our lawmakers to lead the way in holding sex buyers more accountable for the role they play in sex trafficking.

1. **Sex trafficking is a problem in Kansas.**

* The U.S. Department of Justice has identified Kansas as an originating state for human trafficking.
* Kansas is centrally located between major cities and towns in the US and is the intersection of two major federal interstates: I-70 and I-35.
* Sex trafficking is the most common type of trafficking in the U.S.
* Sex trafficking is bad for Kansas and dangerous for its citizens.
* Traffickers often prey on vulnerable individuals.

1. **Demand is the driving force behind sex trafficking.**

* Without buyers, there would be no demand.
* Without demand, traffickers find it difficult to make money from selling human beings.
* Traffickers will have to go to a location where there is demand or they will have to choose to sell something else.

1. **Kansas should do all it can to discourage (and eventually end) the demand for sex buying.**

* Economics 101-The Law of Demand says at higher prices, consumers will demand less of product or service.
* The current criminal penalty for a first time sex buyer in Kansas is a misdemeanor, the ***possibility*** of a fine ranging from $1,200 to $5,000, and the ***possibility*** of a court ordered educational or treatment program.
* The legal price to our buyers is low and not a deterrent to their buying.
* Misdemeanor status does not motivate law enforcement to spend already stretched resources on this problem.

1. **Kansas needs to make first time sex buying more legally and socially expensive for the buyers.**

* One solution is to change the law to a ***felony*** for a first time offense.
* First time buyers should be ***required*** to participate in an educational or treatment program regarding commercial sexual exploitation and their role in it.
* A felony conviction will provide more substantial and serious penalties to the first time buyer.
* Texas changed its laws in 2021 to make sex buying a felony and also increased the monetary fines.
* Texas has collected anecdotal evidence in the form of online conversations amongst buyers indicating it is having some effect as a deterrent. Buyers are concerned about how a felony conviction will affect employment opportunities, gun ownership and voting rights. Out of state buyers have commented they will just remain out of state.
* Kansas can and should be a leader on this issue. Kansas would be the 5th state to make first time sex buying a felony and, in addition to Texas, would be joining Delaware (signed into law 8/29/24 regarding only minors), Oklahoma (effective November 2024), and North Carolina (effective December 2024).

1. **Kansans who agree that there should be more significant consequences for sex buyers in Kansas can help change the law.**

* Contact your representatives in the House and Senate. Their information can be found using the QR code below.
* Ask them to support legislation making first time sex buying a felony.
* Talk to friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, etc, and ask them to do the same.
* Email, phone calls, snail mail.
* For more information, contact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
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