

MEDIA ADVISORY

Legislators, Safe Harbor coalition, announce legislation to address child sex trafficking in Minnesota

What: Minnesota State Senate President Sandy Pappas and Minnesota State Representative Susan Allen, along with Safe Harbor coalition stakeholders, will announce the introduction of new legislation to address and prevent child sex trafficking in Minnesota and to provide services that support young people victimized by sex trafficking.

The legislation includes the following key recommendations and associated appropriations:

- Construction, renovation and operation of Safe Harbor Shelter and Housing for sex-trafficked youth.
- Establishment of a Safe Harbor Supportive Services Fund to provide therapeutic, culturally specific services for sex-trafficked children.
- Creation of a Statewide Safe Harbor Director, six grant-funded Regional Navigator positions, and 14 grant-funded youth street outreach positions across Minnesota.
- Creation of a Safe Harbor Training Fund to ensure that law enforcement and other front-line personnel have the training they need to promote community-level prevention efforts, identify child sex trafficking victims and to aggressively investigate and prosecute traffickers.

Who: **Jeff Bauer**, director of public policy, The Family Partnership
Lee Roper Batker, president and CEO, Women's Foundation of Minnesota
Minnesota State Senator Sandy Pappas, president, Minnesota Senate
Minnesota State Representative Susan Allen
Rafael Ortega, chair, Ramsey County Board of Commissioners
John Choi, Ramsey County Attorney
Jim Backstrom, Dakota County Attorney
Sgt. John Bandemer, St. Paul Police Department
Sgt. Grant Snyder, Minneapolis Police Department
Michele Garnett McKenzie, advocacy director, The Advocates for Human Rights
Artika Roller, PRIDE program director, The Family Partnership
Suzanne Koepflinger, executive director, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
Vednita Carter, founder and executive director, Breaking Free

When: Friday, February 8, 2013; 11:00 a.m. or 5 minutes after the weekly legislative leadership availabilities, whichever is later.

Where: MN State Capitol, Room 125

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