

Wisconsin Legislation Speaker's Task Force on Human Trafficking

In August, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos initiated a legislative task force to provide recommendations to combat human trafficking in Wisconsin. The task force is traveling to multiple locations in Wisconsin to obtain "input and innovative ideas in order to compile recommendations."¹

According to Representative Jerry O'Connor, the Task Force was catalyzed in part by representatives who viewed the movie *Sound of Freedom* this past summer. The Task Force is focusing on sex trafficking but will consider labor trafficking as well.

Three hearings have taken place thus far. Two in Madison and a third in Oshkosh. All hearings have been covered by [Wisconsin Eye and can be viewed online.](#)

If you have limited time, please consider viewing the 30 minute Task Force introduction that covers the issue of human trafficking in Wisconsin plus legislators perspectives.

The task force is being led by Jerry O'Connor (R-Fond du Lac), chair, and Representative Jodi Emerson (D-Eau Claire), vice-chair who are focused on solutions to combat human trafficking through prevention, supporting and empowering survivors, and prosecuting traffickers. The Task Force is hearing scheduled input from law enforcement, advocate agencies as well as state agencies including the Department of Justice, the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Instruction.

The task force is expected to make recommendations for legislation at the end of their work.

FCAST is advocating for

1. A legislated commission/coordinating council to establish a statewide partnership between state departments, community law enforcement, and accredited advocates with a mission that includes Prevention, Partnership, Protection and Prosecution.
2. Accreditation of advocacy agencies in all 72 counties who in partnership provide support for law enforcement including forensic interviews, services and referrals for victims and the gathering of suitable evidence for the prosecution of traffickers.
3. Holding social media companies accountable for illegal activities related to the exploitation of minors.

[Shared Hope International](#), gives [the state of Wisconsin an F](#) for its lack of enacting a minimum set of laws needed to address child sex trafficking.

We ask that you contact your legislators to express your opinion and to encourage them to enact meaningful legislation that addresses child exploitation and trafficking in our state.

¹ Wis Politics, August 24, 2023; <https://www.wispolitics.com/2023/speaker-vos-creates-four-bipartisan-task-forces/>