

Safe Harbor Anti-Trafficking Legislation for Minors

HELP TRAFFICKED MINORS GET THE SUPPORTS THEY NEED

WISCONSIN'S CURRENT PROSTITUTION LAWS FAIL TO RECOGNIZE MINORS AS VICTIMS IN NEED OF SUPPORT

Safe Harbor laws fix a gap between federal and state trafficking laws.

Minor children who cannot legally consent to having sex are still being charged with prostitution in Wisconsin. This prevents children from coming forward to seek support and services and from testifying against their traffickers.

Children who are recognized under both state and federal law as victims of a crime should never be arrested and convicted of prostitution.

Minors who are trafficked need supportive resources to recover, such as healthcare, economic supports, mental health services, and foster care.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families' most recent report, there were 422 allegations of child sex trafficking in Wisconsin between June 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018.

Nearly 82% of allegations statewide involved a child between the ages of 14-17

According to the Polaris Project, 34 states have enacted Safe Harbor laws as of 2019. After passing Safe Harbor legislation in 2011, Minnesota saw the convictions of traffickers quadruple in 2012.



ACT NOW: Reintroduce Safe Harbor legislation to prevent minors from being charged with prostitution.

The 2023 Wisconsin Proposed Legislation (SB 55/AB 48) is directed at disrupting the cycle of human trafficking

Through a membership of community-based organizations and statewide partnerships, WAHRS supports family reunification, provides safe and stable housing and shelter options, and supports youth well-being, education, employment, and permanent connections to address and solve the underlying causes of youth homelessness. Strong **partnerships** with Department of Justice, Department of Children and Family Services, HUD Continuum of Care, Department of Public Instruction, Serve Wisconsin (AmeriCorps), and others ensure diverse, innovative, and cross-systems approaches to addressing the problems of homelessness among young people. Learn more at www.wahrs.org