While this bill mirror's the 2010 bill, I believe it has a greater chance of making a difference in the lives of those being trafficked in our state because of the type and placement of the sticker proposed.

In most situations, when a trafficker brings their victim into an establishment, the only time that victim is alone (without the trafficker watching) is when they are in the bathroom stalls. This bill requires that the stickers be put inside those bathroom stalls where the victim has the privacy to look at and to memorize the National Human Trafficking phone or text Hotline.

The sticker is adhered to inside of the bathroom stall. This is preferable to having a paper for the victim to take with them because sex trafficking victims are regularly stripsearched. If a trafficker finds a hotline number or text indicating the victim is trying to leave it could result in their injury or death.

We have been using this sticker for several years in Central Oregon.

- One survivor of sex trafficking who was referred to me from law enforcement for services told me one of these stickers was on the bathroom mirror in the hotel room where the pimp brought her to be trafficked. The pimp removed the sticker within a day of bringing her to the hotel room. However, she said seeing it gave her hope that there were people in the area who may want to help her.
- It is said that a picture paints a thousand words. That is certainly the case with this sticker. Survivors of sex trafficking say that the pictures on these stickers immediately communicate the message that help is being offered.

It is my hope that this bill will be passed without opposition. It provides one more avenue for the victims of human trafficking in our state to know there is help and to reach out for help. Washington State is considering a similar bill where stickers will be mandatory in all public restrooms. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Nita Belles, Managing Director In Our Backyard