



**Department of Commerce**

# Human Trafficking Model Notices

*Chapter 273, Laws of 2015  
(RCW 43.280.110)*

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Report to the Legislature  
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## Acknowledgements

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## Executive Summary

In 2015, the Washington State Legislature passed Senate Bill 5884 (Chapter 273, Laws of 2015). This broad piece of legislation had several impacts in regards to combatting human trafficking.

The bill designated the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA), housed within the Department of Commerce, as the single point of contact in state government regarding human trafficking. It directed OCVA to create an online Clearinghouse on Human Trafficking, an effort that was completed in June 2016. It extended the Statewide Coordinating Committee on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, housed at the Office of the Attorney General, for an additional two years, through June 2017. Further, Senate Bill 5884 reconvened the Task Force Against the Trafficking of Persons, a group which had initially been created in 2002 but allowed to expire.

Lastly, the bill launched a voluntary initiative to provide model notices (posters) about human trafficking to any establishment in the state with a public restroom. The bill directed OCVA to:

- Review and approve the form and content of a poster to ensure it is appropriate for public display and likely to be an effective communication to reach human trafficking victims. OCVA must review the poster on a yearly basis to ensure the information provided remains accurate.
- Work with businesses, other establishments, and with human trafficking victim advocates to adopt policies for the placement of the posters.
- Work with a participating nonprofit, which must cover the costs of production, printing, and posting of the posters so that these activities do not result in any costs to the state.

SB 5884 directed OCVA to provide a report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature no later than December 31, 2016, regarding the voluntary participation in the effort to produce and display the posters. This report fulfills that requirement.

### Key Findings

- As of October 31, 2016, over 430 posters had been distributed statewide.
- The posters were distributed to nonprofit agencies, businesses, and local government offices.
- The posters included a message designed to reach trafficking victims in English, Russian, Tagalog, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali, and Ukrainian.
- The posters prominently feature the toll-free phone numbers for the Washington State Crime Victim Service Center Hotline and the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

The poster is included in Appendix A.

### Recommendation

Amend RCW 43.280.110, to remove the language under subsection (1)(3) that prevents the use of state funds to print the posters, which is estimated to cost less than \$2,000 per year.

## Methodology

### Poster Development

In fall 2015, OCVA convened a work group of representatives from three nonprofit organizations – Seattle Against Slavery, Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking (BEST), and the Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network (WARN).

The three organizations are statewide leaders in combatting trafficking and have significant experience in public outreach to victims and survivors of human trafficking. Seattle Against Slavery mobilizes communities in the fight against labor and sex trafficking through education, advocacy, and collaboration with local and national partners. BEST aligns and equips leaders to use the power of business to prevent human trafficking. WARN is a coalition of organizations in Washington that provides direct assistance to victims of trafficking, and works closely with the National Human Trafficking Hotline. The group met through phone conferences to determine the design of the poster, the languages that would be featured, and the policies for distribution.

The work group decided to feature the same message developed in 2010 for a poster distributed at Department of Transportation highway rest stops. That year, the message was selected after a lengthy collaborative process between groups representing trafficking victims and survivors of different language groups and cultural identities. It reads:

*“No one should force you into work or prostitution. You have rights in the United States, regardless of immigration status. If you or someone you know is being forced to work, please call for help.”*

SB 5884 directed that, “The model notice that may be voluntarily posted... may be in a variety of languages and include toll-free telephone numbers a person may call for assistance, including the number for the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and the number for the Washington State Office of Crime Victims Advocacy.”

In keeping with the requirements of the legislation, the work group ensured that the posters prominently displayed the Washington Crime Victim Service Center Hotline and the National Human Trafficking Hotline. The Crime Victim Service Center Hotline is operated through a grant from OCVA, and provides 24-hour statewide support and referrals for victims of many crimes, including trafficking. The National Human Trafficking Hotline is operated by the nonprofit Polaris, which issues an annual report that includes data on the location of calls, type of trafficking being reported, and referrals made to local assistance organizations.

To determine which languages should be included on the poster, the work group consulted with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction about the data it collects regarding language groups in K-12 education. The following languages were determined to be those most

frequently spoken in the state: English, Russian, Tagalog, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali, and Ukrainian.

Senate Bill 5884 directed that no state funds could be expended on production, printing, or the posting of the posters. Therefore, Seattle Against Slavery recruited a volunteer graphic designer to work on the poster. Seattle Against Slavery also raised money for and funded the production of the posters.

### **Poster Distribution**

By late summer 2016, the posters were printed and ready for distribution. OCVA emailed all of its grantee contacts, a list of over 200 names. The email explained the background of the posters and their intent, and invited recipients to contact OCVA to request that posters be mailed to them. In addition:

- Commerce's WorkFirst program distributed the email to its contractors around the state, and further distributed it to the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), the Employment Security Department, the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, and the Office of Refugee and Immigrants Services.
- The Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys sent out a customized version of the email to city and county prosecutors across the state.
- Commerce's GovDelivery email subscription service was used to send out information about the availability of the poster to over 2,000 subscribers who had indicated interest in OCVA activities.

The poster was made available for download on the Human Trafficking Clearinghouse website,<sup>1</sup> and the emails included a link to that site.

Recipients of the posters were asked to work with community establishments to inform them of the project, identify those who would voluntarily display the posters, and post a minimum of five posters in their communities. They were further asked to complete an Excel spreadsheet indicating where the posters had been put up, the name of an onsite contact person, and the language groups that the posters would reach at that location.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/trafficking>

## Summary of Voluntary Participation

The poster was well-received by organizations across the state. At the time of this report, over 430 posters have been distributed and posted statewide. In addition, a number of copies have been downloaded from the Human Trafficking Clearinghouse website. The posters continue to be mailed out to requesting organizations and downloaded from the website.

While posters were put up in the restrooms of participating businesses and organizations (per RCW 43.280.110), they were more frequently posted on bulletin boards and front windows to reach the maximum number of people. Below is a summary of the types of organizations requesting posters, with examples for each category:

- Cities (Sunnyside, Longview)
- County agencies (Clark County Jail, Clark County Needle Exchange program)
- State agencies (Department of Agriculture, Department of Social and Health Services)
- Businesses (Goodwill, Maltese Tavern Bar and Grill in Kelso)
- Nonprofits (Lutheran Community Services, Kitsap Sexual Assault Center)

Contacts at these organizations reported that they had distributed the posters to the following categories of organizations willing to post the posters; examples are in parentheses:

- Churches (St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Spokane)
- State agency offices (Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program, Child Protective Services, WorkSource offices)
- City agencies (Sunnyside Law and Justice Center, Longview Housing Opportunity)
- Community centers (Firstenburg Community Center, Marshall/Luepke Community Center)
- Hospitals (Sunnyside Community Hospital)
- Large businesses (Walmart, 7-11 convenience stores, AM/PM convenience stores)
- Small businesses (Tienda la Mexicana in Wenatchee, GearJammer Truck Stop in Union Gap, Capture Treasures in Longview)
- Nonprofits (Career Path Services at eight offices, the Next Generation Zone in Spokane)
- Libraries (Ridgefield Community Library, Washougal Community Library)
- Parks (Sarge Hubbard Park in Yakima)
- Schools (Liberty Middle School, Camas High School)

Agency and business contacts reported that their distribution efforts reached all nine language groups on the posters. English, Spanish, and Russian were the most represented language groups reached through outreach efforts.

## Recommendation

The Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA) and its work group of nonprofit partners plan to continue distribution efforts for the poster. However, Senate Bill 5884's restriction on using state funds to print the posters creates an impediment to being able to quickly produce more copies when there is a demand to do so. Therefore, OCVA and the work group recommend that the Legislature amend RCW 43.280.110, to delete the following language under subsection (1)(3):

*"The cost of production, printing, and posting of the model notices shall be paid by a participating nonprofit at no cost to the state."*

The work group anticipates that ongoing poster production costs would be minimal (less than \$2,000 per year). This amount would be paid through existing funding sources, which could include federal grant monies awarded to OCVA through the Victims of Crime Act.



## Appendix A: Model Notice



**No one should force you into work or prostitution.**

**You have rights in the United States, regardless of immigration status.**

**If you or someone you know is being forced to work, please call for help:**

Không ai có quyền ép buộc bạn làm việc hoặc làm mãi dâm. Nếu bạn hoặc những người bạn quen biết đang bị ép buộc làm việc hoặc làm mãi dâm, dù bạn đang cư trú bất hợp pháp, bạn vẫn có quyền lợi, hãy gọi để được giúp đỡ:

Никто не может принуждать вас к бесплатным работам или к занятию проституцией. В америке вы защищены законом. Если вы или кто-то, кого вы знаете принуждают к бесплатным работам, пожалуйста обратитесь за помощью:

Ніхто не повинен змушувати вас працювати або займатися проституцією. У Вас є права в Сполучених Штатах незалежно від вашого імміграційного статусу. Якщо вас, або людей яких ви знаєте, змушують працювати, будь ласка телефонуйте за допомогою:

Walang pweding pumilit sa iyo na magtrabaho o prostitusyon. Kung ikaw o maykilala ka na pinipilit magtrabaho o prostitusyon, kahit wala kayong imigrasyon na dokumento, mayroon pa rin kayong karapatan. Kung kailangan ng tulong tawagan ang numerong ito:

Nadie te puede forzar a trabajar o ser prostituta. Si tú o alguien que tú conoces está trabajando o haciendo un acto sexual a la fuerza, haz favor de pedir ayuda. Aunque no estés documentado tienes derechos en este país.

Qofna kuguma qasbi karo shaqo iyo dhilaysi. Xuquuq ayaad leedahay Maraykanka dhexdiisa, si kasta oo ay tahay xaaladaada imigrayshanku. Haddii adiga ama qof kale oo aad taqaan lagu qasbayo shaqo, fadlan u soo wacdaa caawinaad.

任何人都不能強迫你做任何工作或做娼妓有關工作。如你知道有人在美國被強迫工作，即使他/她們沒有合法移民身份，也會受到保護，請打電話 1-888-3737-888求助。

아무도 당신을 일 또는 매춘으로 강요할 수 없습니다. 만약 당신이 강제노동을 하거나 당신이 아는 사람이 강제노동을 하면, 이민자 신분은 관계없이 당신은 아직도 권리가 있습니다. 도움을 요청하십시오:

Washington State Crime Victim Service Center Hotline

**1-888-288-9221**

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline

**1-888-373-7888**



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