



February 3, 2020

To the House Judiciary Committee Members,

We, the Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado, are writing to express our support for House Bill 20-1120 concerning enhancing the enforcement of crimes of sexual exploitation of a child.

As a community based, non-profit who has worked in Colorado Springs for the last 12 years to bring advocacy and awareness to the issues surrounding human trafficking, we believe it is critical to address the issues that pertain to the sexual exploitation of children.

Because our Task Force has known and worked with survivors of the crime of human trafficking who were exploited through the use of technology, specifically pornography, we feel strongly that our laws must address the full extent of this crime. This includes perpetrators who are in possession of sexually explicit materials and use them to sexually exploit a child by either forcing them to view these materials or to perform in them as well as those who access and view the materials.

Sexually explicit materials should never involve children, and it must be made clear to those who access and view these types of materials that when they do so they are involved in criminal activity.

The perpetrators of the crime of sexual exploitation of a child should be considered a risk to society and treated as such. Increased penalties, in the form of increased jail time are appropriate. We are also in support of the creation of grant program that uses the suggested surcharge to help increase the effectiveness of investigations as well as prosecution. As online crimes and the sexual exploitation of people become increasingly rampant it is important that law enforcement and prosecutors have the support they need to identify and stop this crime.

Protecting children from exploitation is a top priority and we urge your support for HB 20-1120. The Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado would like to see the state of Colorado adopt this bill as it is currently written. We must take seriously our responsibility to protect our citizens, and especially our children from individuals who profit from the exploitation of their bodies.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Julee Bellar
Chair for the Board of Directors
Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado