



Senate Bill 1828 & 1829 (Parker);

House Bill 754 & 742 (S. Thompson)

*Related to Providing Human Trafficking Training
to First Responders and Medical Assistants*

PURPOSE

Ensure that first responders and medical assistants can identify and report human trafficking to the appropriate authorities.

BACKGROUND

First responders may be the only emergency personnel to encounter a human trafficking victim after an emergency, act of violence, or other adverse experience. In many cases, the victim will decline transit to a healthcare facility or any other further intervention, due to fear or coercion. Certain medical and law enforcement professionals are trained on the signs of human trafficking, but trafficking victims who fear or are controlled by their trafficker may never come into contact with them. Instead, first responders are the first and perhaps only point of intervention. It is essential that these medical professionals are trained to recognize the signs of human trafficking and know how to report human trafficking.

If a human trafficking victim can access healthcare, medical assistants are more likely to observe the interactions and behavioral dynamics between the victim and the person who accompanies them. Medical assistants have much longer to establish a rapport with a potential victim of human trafficking, have extended opportunities to build trust, and are often responsible for important tasks like taking a medical history. Medical assistants are integral to spotting the signs of human trafficking, and as such they should be trained.

PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES

Require comprehensive human trafficking awareness training for first responders and medical personnel.



FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PLEASE CONTACT:

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