

## CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Legislators

**FROM:** Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt  
Senator LaTonya Johnson

**DATE:** January 8, 2019

**RE:** Co-Sponsorship LRB-1118/1: Fight Human Trafficking - Trucker Education

**DEADLINE: Wednesday, January 16, 2019**

Members of the trucking industry and individual truckers are invaluable in the fight against human trafficking. As the eyes and ears of our nation's highways, truckers are in a unique position to make a difference in identifying and preventing human traffickers who exploit our transportation system through this heinous crime.

This legislation will establish industry-specific materials on the recognition and prevention of human trafficking for use in the instruction in driver education courses that provide instruction in the operation of commercial motor vehicles. This will affect new drivers only.

We have drafted this legislation in consultation with Truckers Against Trafficking, a nationwide organization that educates and mobilizes members of the trucking and travel plaza industry to combat domestic sex trafficking. They have developed an industry training program used by commercial motor vehicle instructors across the nation that can be viewed at their website: <http://www.truckersagainsttrafficking.org/>

This legislation has had great success in Texas. The National Human Trafficking Hotline was established in 2007, and before Truckers Against Trafficking's inception in 2009, they reported that only three (3) calls from that state were made to the hotline by truckers. By the end of 2016, truckers had made nearly 2,000 calls, making them one of the fastest growing demographic of callers nationwide.

This bill is supported by the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association and by Truckers Against Trafficking. Please join us in sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Katie in Representative Thiesfeldt's office or Christian in Senator Johnson's office by Wednesday, January 16, 2019. All co-sponsors will be added to both versions of the bill unless otherwise specified.

***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

Under current law, the Technical College System Board must approve courses of study for each program offered in technical college district schools, including driver education courses. TCSB may not approve a driver education course unless the course includes certain content, such as acquainting students with the hazards posed by farm machinery and animals on highways and by railroad grade crossings and providing instruction in safely dealing with these hazards. The Department of Transportation licenses private driver schools and DOT may not license a driver school unless its course of instruction includes the content required for TCSB approval of a driver education course.

Under this bill, commercial motor vehicle driver education courses offered by technical colleges or licensed private driver schools must provide instruction in the recognition and prevention of human trafficking.