Bills tracked and supported by the
Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery
As of May 17, 2022

During the 2022 legislative session the House and Senate have sent 4 bills to the governor that touch on human trafficking issues, with 4 others that are still pending. These bills touch issues such as missing persons, domestic sexual abuse, child pornography, standards of evidence for sex abuse cases, and the treatment of human trafficking survivors.

Signed by the Governor:
Missing Persons Cases (HF 2123)→

- This bill allows criminal and juvenile justice officers to disseminate the personal information and photos of a person who is a missing person or is involved in the disappearance of a minor.

Domestic and Sexual Abuse Protective Disorders (HF 825)→

- Under current law, upon a finding of domestic abuse or sexual abuse the court may approve a consent agreement or grant a protective order.
- This bill strikes the requirement that a finding of domestic or sexual abuse must occur ***before*** the court approves a consent agreement.

Bailable Offenses (HF 2079)→

- Adds 3 offenses to code: sexual abuse in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degrees.
- The bill requires individuals accused of one of these 3 new offenses to appear before a magistrate prior to their release on bail.

Passed the legislature, awaiting the Governor's signature:
Sex Abuse Evidence (SF 2253)→

- Deems that the rule of evidence for sexual abuse cases applies to discovery proceedings and post-conviction proceedings.
- The Senate amended the bill, adding hearsay exceptions for children in physical/sexual abuse cases and for persons with developmental disabilities and cognitive impairments.
- Passed in the House 92-3. Passed in the Senate (as amended) 47-0. House concurred with Senate amendment 97-0. The bill now waits for a signature by the Governor.

Still pending in the Legislature:
Child Porn Offenses (HF 2446)→

- Requires a person who knowingly purchases multiple pictures of the same minor engaging in prohibited sex acts to be prosecuted for ***multiple*** offenses.
- Under current law offenders can only be charged by the number of children in the photos, not by the number of photos themselves.
- Passed unanimously in the House, is currently stalled in the Senate.

Hearsay Evidence (HF 2221) →

- Makes an exception to hearsay rules to allow specific out-of-court statements in various sex offense trials where the victim is a child or developmentally disabled or otherwise cognitively impaired.
- The amendment adds provisions from the Senate companion (SF 2329) on spouses and now adds 2 exceptions to the spousal communication privilege (threats against the spouse or third party, and communications that have already been disclosed to a third party).
- Passed House 97-0. Passed Senate 47-0 (as amended). Waiting for approval of the Senate's amendment by the House.

Expunging Human Trafficking Records (HF 2464)→ *NAHT's bill!*

- This bill creates a Safe Harbor policy for human trafficking victims under 18 years-old.
- It also allows for the expungement of crimes committed by human trafficking victims during their time of trafficking.
- The bill passed in the House 95-1 and is awaiting floor debate in the Senate.

******* The above description was the original intent of the bill NAHT introduced. We have run into pushback from legislators and other stakeholders and have since amended the bill. The amendment would instead create an interim workgroup for discussion and consideration of the best methods for the implementation of Safe Harbor and expungement of criminal records for human trafficking victims. The Network is awaiting response from the Senate about whether they will move our amendment forward this legislative session**.*****