



February 22, 2025

Chairman Luke Rankin  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
Post Office Box 142  
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Chairman Rankin

I am writing today to ask that you please name a Senate Judiciary subcommittee for S.235, a bill sponsored by Senator Josh Kimbrell that addresses the ever-expanding impact of human sex trafficking in South Carolina.

Estimates show that sex trafficking in South Carolina is a \$250-500 million a year business in the Palmetto State, impacting thousands of lives every single day. The sex trade is less a business than it is an industry. It goes well beyond the misconceived illusions of autonomous prostitutes standing on street corners offering sex at a price. In fact, this criminal enterprise, like every other business in this state, has products, buyers, sellers, transportation, infrastructure, marketing, recruitment, retention, and disposal. It trades not on commodities produced for the general public, but rather on human life itself, extracted from polite society by manipulation, fraud, force, and coercion into a life of leveraged drug dependence, extreme violence and rape, and abject slavery: hell on earth.

S.235 is a step in the right direction towards shutting down the business of human trafficking in South Carolina. It is a simple exercise of supply-and-demand economics. Similar legislation has already passed in Texas and North Carolina, with impactful results. A similar law needs to be passed here. By increasing penalties for buyers and sellers of human beings from a simple \$200 misdemeanor to a \$1,000 class 3 felony, S.235 will severely cut into the demand and reduce the impact of human sex trafficking. This is not merely a punitive measure, but a concrete tool teaching that actions have consequences, and our state will no longer turn a blind eye toward treating human life as a commodity or violence against some of the most vulnerable South Carolinians. No one should be allowed to get away with abuse.

The price of a human life must not be measured by the hour. Help us, please, by naming a subcommittee for S.235 today.

For Life,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "C" that loops around the first part of the name.

Catherine Glenn Foster, M.A., J.D.  
President & CEO