



Rochester Regional Coalition  
**AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

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Educate Advocate Liberate

## Rochester Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking Legislative Agenda for New York State 2018 Budget

- 1) Increase funding for the Maternal Home Visiting programs that prevent the abuse and trauma that make children vulnerable for traffickers. Currently only 5% of eligible families have access to the program. The biggest program in the state, Healthy Families NY, has been flat-funded for more than a decade, meaning it can serve fewer people each year. ***We are asking for \$5 million spread across existing sites and \$13 million for two pilot sites where every eligible family could have a slot.***
- 2) Eliminate New York's statute of limitations for child sexual abuse. Researchers have demonstrated that it takes survivors of child sexual abuse, on average, 21 years to disclose their abuse. New York's current SOL on the crime keeps most victims from pressing charges on their 23rd birthday, which means it is impossible to convict most abusers, and without convictions it is impossible to properly vet adults entrusted to work with children. ***There is a version of the Child Victims Act in the Governor's budget that is supported by advocates and has all essential components, and we are asking legislators to support it.***
- 3) Safe Harbour grants provide agencies that work directly with trafficked youth or youth at high risk of being trafficked with a lifeline. The grants enable recipient counties to provide direct services for this very high-need population and to gather data on the scope of youth trafficking. Cash-strapped counties are having difficulty making up the balance to maintain these programs after funding sunsets. ***We are asking for a provision to extend Safe Harbor funding for recipient counties.***

## Legislative Agenda for Bills not in the Budget

- 1) ***A 7034/ S 6893 Support*** mandates the establishment of a human trafficking recognition curriculum and mandate that casino employees take it.
- 2) ***A 6834A/ S 5955A Support*** mandates the establishment of a human trafficking curriculum and that hotel workers are trained in it, and that hotels display the national Human Trafficking Hotline.
- 3) ***A 4540/ S 4997 Support*** allows vacature of crimes committed by persons who can demonstrate they were victims of sex or labor trafficking. Current legislation only allows for vacature of prostitution charges, but victims of sex or labor trafficking often are convicted for property and drug offenses as well. Vacature allows victims to access student loans, housing assistance and jobs once they have healed.

- 4) **S 6992 Support** allows human trafficking victims to sue their traffickers, or any entity that profited from their trafficking, for compensatory damages and punitive damages if they can demonstrate malice.
- 5) **A03223 Support** allows NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to certify human trafficking victims, streamlines the process of OTDA contracting with service providers and ensures that service providers are able to give victims the variety of support services they need.