

House Judiciary Committee
H.18 - An act relating to sexual exploitation of children
Chris Fenno, Executive Director
April 28, 2021

The Center for Crime Victim Services supports the passage of H.18, as amended by the Senate with the addition of S.103.

H.18 as passed by the House

The Center supports the greater specifics provided for in H.18 regarding sexual exploitation of children as passed by the House

H.18 as passed by the Senate

As the statewide grant administrator for victim services funding, a direct service provider, and a voice for victim/survivor rights in government, the Center for Crime Victims Services has tracked and championed statewide efforts to improve services for victims of human trafficking, as well as supported prosecution and prevention for many years.

The Center participates on the statewide Human Trafficking Task Force and has awarded federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants to the South Burlington Police Department and the Rutland Police Department for Human Trafficking Case Manager positions. We also regularly sponsor training for victim service providers and allied professionals across disciplines to enhance services, raise awareness, and catalyze new partnerships and initiatives.

The Center, in collaboration with the Vermont State Police, has been awarded a three-year U.S. Department of Justice VOCA Cooperative Agreement to strengthen services for victims of human trafficking and to support investigation and prosecution.

If a person reports to law enforcement that the person is a victim of, or witness to, a crime that arose from the person's involvement in prostitution or human trafficking, we believe the person should not be cited, arrested, or prosecuted for a violation of the offenses listed in H.18.

The Center supports the addition of S.103 to H.18.

Thank you.

