



## Action Alert

# Amended HB 280 Human Life /Human Trafficking Prohibitions

In the Ohio Senate, the Criminal Justice Committee has amended HB 280 to include a state prohibition against human trafficking. If passed, amended HB 280 will establish in Ohio the specific crime of **trafficking in persons**. Such a crime involves subjecting victims to sexual servitude. This newly added crime specification would be another tool for prosecutors and law enforcement officers to use in protecting and defending human life.

Amended HB 280 also requires that a **“no coercion”** sign be prominently displayed in an abortion clinic, and it increases penalties for domestic violence towards a pregnant woman.

The **“no coercion”** sign will provide the following message: "NO ONE CAN FORCE YOU TO HAVE AN ABORTION. NO ONE – NOT A PARENT, NOT A HUSBAND, NOT A BOYFRIEND – NO ONE. Under Ohio law, an abortion cannot be legally performed on anyone, regardless of her age, unless she VOLUNTARILY CONSENTS to having the abortion. Ohio law requires that, before an abortion can legally be performed, the pregnant female must sign a form indicating that she consents to having the abortion "voluntarily" and "WITHOUT COERCION BY ANY PERSON." IF SOMEONE IS TRYING TO FORCE YOU TO HAVE AN ABORTION AGAINST YOUR WILL: DO NOT SIGN THE CONSENT FORM. IF YOU ARE AT AN ABORTION FACILITY, TELL AN EMPLOYEE OF THE FACILITY THAT SOMEONE IS TRYING TO FORCE YOU TO HAVE AN ABORTION."

## Action Request

**Please immediately contact your Ohio Senator and House Representative. Ask them to support Amended HB 280. Floor votes are expected either Tuesday December 16 or Wednesday, December 17, 2008.**

- Amended HB 280 will help protect human life from the horrific crime of human trafficking;
- Amended HB 280 will help reduce coercion at abortion facilities;
- Amended HB 280 will increase penalties regarding domestic violence toward pregnant women;
- Amended HB 280 will help promote and defend the value and dignity of human life.

For information on contacting your legislators link to: <http://www.legislature.state.oh.us>