

# [2019 Session] Address the Root Causes of Commercial Sexual Exploitation Rather Than Punishing Vulnerable Populations

## Policy Background

Without the demand for purchased sex there would be no prostitution – and, in turn, no sex trafficking. To take steps to reduce prostitution and trafficking, we must deter the purchase of sexual services. Although some measures are currently in place to criminalize prostitution, there are glaring disparities in policing and criminal justice responses to buyers and sellers. Specifying that the offense of purchasing sex is a form of exploitation can be effective in reducing its demand.

## Proposed Solution

(1) Redefine prostitution for “buyers” as an offense of “Commercial Sexual Exploitation.” (2) Raise fees levied against “buyers” and use those funds to provide pre- and post-arrest services for victims of commercial sexual exploitation – including housing, case management, wrap-around supports, vocational training, and substance use treatment. (3) Remove the felony enhancement for multiple offenses of prostitution, which will provide commercially exploited individuals with more opportunities for probation supervision, treatment programs, and other services that can help them build healthy life skills.

## Relevant Bill

- **Bill Number:** [HB 3206](#) [Jessica González. Senfronia Thompson, Collier, White, Moody]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to the prosecution and punishment of the offense of prostitution and to a court cost imposed on conviction of certain trafficking of persons and prostitution offenses.  
**House Hearing Notice:** [Criminal Jurisprudence, March 25, 2019](#)  
**TCJE House Action:** [Testimony in support](#)  
**House Hearing Video:** [Criminal Jurisprudence, 3/25/19](#)

## Other Bills Related to Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking

- **Bill Number:** **HB 15** [Senfronia Thompson, Krause, Collier, White, Yvonne Davis]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to the prevention of, prosecution of, penalties for, and other consequences of prostitution, trafficking of persons, and related criminal offenses and to orders of nondisclosure for persons who committed certain of those offenses; regulating occupations and property to prevent and respond to those criminal offenses, including requiring a student occupational permit for those purposes; authorizing fees; increasing criminal penalties; creating criminal offenses.  
**House Hearing Notice:** Criminal Jurisprudence, April 1, 2019  
**TCJE House Action:** Neutral testimony  
**House Hearing Video:** Criminal Jurisprudence, 4/1/19
- **Bill Number:** **HB 111** [Mary González, Meyer, Button | Sponsor: Fallon]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to public school policy and training for public school employees addressing the prevention of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and other maltreatment of certain children.  
**House Hearing Notice:** Public Education, February 19, 2019  
**House Hearing Video:** Public Education, 2/19/19  
**Senate Hearing Notice:** Education, May 7, 2019  
**TCJE Senate Action:** Testimony in support  
**Senate Hearing Video:** Education, 5/7/19  
*Signed by the Governor; effective on 9/1/2019*
- **Bill Number:** **HB 292** [Senfronia Thompson, Landgraf, Calanni, Julie Johnson | Sponsor: Huffman]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to inclusion of instruction on the trafficking of persons in the basic training curriculum for peace officers.  
**House Hearing Notice:** Homeland Security & Public Safety, April 3, 2019  
**TCJE House Action:** Card in support  
**House Hearing Video:** Homeland Security & Public Safety, 4/3/19  
*Signed by the Governor; effective on 9/1/2019*
- **Bill Number:** **HB 403** [Senfronia Thompson | Sponsor: Huffman]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to training requirements for a member of the board of trustees and the superintendent of an independent school district regarding sexual abuse, human trafficking, and other maltreatment of children.  
**House Hearing Notice:** Public Education, February 26, 2019

**TCJE House Action:** Card in support

**House Hearing Video:** Public Education, 2/26/19

**Senate Hearing Notice:** Education, April 30, 2019

**TCJE Senate Action:** Card in support

**Senate Hearing Video:** Education, 4/30/19

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- **Bill Number:** **HB 1113** [Sarah Davis | Sponsor: Alvarado]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to state contract limitations and programs for sex trafficking prevention and victim treatment.  
**House Hearing Notice:** Public Health, April 10, 2019  
**TCJE House Action:** Card in support  
**House Hearing Video:** Public Health, 4/10/19  
**Senate Hearing Notice:** State Affairs, May 17, 2019  
**TCJE Senate Action:** Card in support  
**Senate Hearing Video:** State Affairs, 5/17/19
- **Bill Number:** **HB 1216** [Senfronia Thompson]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to orders of nondisclosure for certain victims of trafficking of persons or compelling prostitution.  
**House Hearing Notice:** Criminal Jurisprudence, March 25, 2019  
**TCJE House Action:** Card in support  
**House Hearing Video:** Criminal Jurisprudence, 3/25/19
- **Bill Number:** **HB 1232** [Guillen]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to the establishment and duties of the human trafficking prevention coordinating council.  
**House Hearing Notice:** State Affairs, March 20, 2019  
**TCJE House Action:** Testimony in support  
**House Hearing Video:** State Affairs, 3/20/19
- **Bill Number:** **HB 1509** [Calanni]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to consent instruction and instruction on the prevention of sexual abuse and sex trafficking for certain public school students.
- **Bill Number:** **HB 1559** [Meza, Lopez]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to employment leave for certain family or medical obligations; imposing an assessment.  
**House Hearing Notice:** International Relations & Economic Development, April 15, 2019  
**House Hearing Video:** International Relations & Economic Development, 4/15/19

- **Bill Number:** **HB 1616** [Ortega]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to certain notice and license display requirements applicable to massage therapy.
- **Bill Number:** **HB 2059** [Blanco | Sponsor: Taylor]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to required human trafficking prevention training as a condition of registration permit or license renewal for certain health care practitioners.  
**House Hearing Notice:** [Public Health, April 24, 2019](#)  
**House Hearing Video:** [Public Health, 4/24/19](#)  
**Senate Hearing Notice:** [Health & Human Services, May 17, 2019](#)  
**Senate Hearing Video:** [Health & Human Services, 5/17/19](#)  
***Signed by the Governor; effective on 9/1/2019***
- **Bill Number:** **HB 2170** [Calanni]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to human trafficking awareness training for members of the legislature.  
**House Hearing Notice:** [House Administration, March 25, 2019](#)  
**House Hearing Video:** [House Administration, 3/25/19](#)
- **Bill Number:** **HB 2906** [Parker, Meyer, Leach, Shaheen, Senfronia Thompson]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to orders of nondisclosure for certain victims of trafficking of persons.  
**House Hearing Notice:** [Criminal Jurisprudence, April 25, 2019](#)  
**TCJE House Action:** [Testimony in support](#)  
**House Hearing Video:** [Criminal Jurisprudence, 4/25/19](#)
- **Bill Number:** **HB 3078** [Senfronia Thompson, Moody, Parker, White, Allen | Sponsor: Zaffirini]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to the review of clemency applications from certain persons who were victims of human trafficking or family violence.  
**House Hearing Notice:** [Corrections, April 4, 2019](#)  
**TCJE House Action:** [Testimony in support](#)  
**House Hearing Video:** [Corrections, 4/4/19](#)  
**Senate Hearing Notice:** [State Affairs, May 17, 2019](#)  
**TCJE Senate Action:** [Card in support](#)  
**Senate Hearing Video:** [State Affairs, 5/17/19](#)  
**VETOED**
- **Bill Number:** **HB 3800** [Senfronia Thompson, Lopez, Collier | Sponsor: Huffman]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses

involving the trafficking of persons.

**House Hearing Notice:** [Homeland Security & Public Safety, April 3, 2019](#)

**TCJE House Action:** [Card in support](#)

**House Hearing Video:** [Homeland Security & Public Safety, 4/3/19](#)

**Senate Hearing Notice:** [Criminal Justice, May 17, 2019](#)

**TCJE Senate Action:** [Card in support](#)

**Senate Hearing Video:** [Criminal Justice, 5/17/19](#)

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- **Bill Number:** [SB 72](#) [Nelson | Sponsor: Guillen]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to the establishment and duties of the human trafficking prevention coordinating council.  
**Senate Hearing Notice:** [State Affairs, March 4, 2019](#)  
**TCJE Senate Action:** [Testimony in support](#)  
**Senate Hearing Video:** [State Affairs, 3/4/19](#)  
***Signed by the Governor; effective on 9/1/2019***
- **Bill Number:** [SB 458](#) [Huffman]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to training requirements for a member of the board of trustees and the superintendent of an independent school district regarding sexual abuse, human trafficking, and other maltreatment of children.  
**Senate Hearing Notice:** [Education, March 19, 2019](#)  
**TCJE Senate Action:** [Card in support](#)  
**Senate Hearing Video:** [Education, 3/19/19](#)
- **Bill Number:** [SB 696](#) [Huffman, Paxton]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to peace officer instruction on the trafficking of persons and compelling prostitution.  
**Senate Hearing Notice:** [Criminal Justice, April 24, 2019](#)  
**TCJE Senate Action:** [Card in support](#)  
**Senate Hearing Video:** [Criminal Justice, 4/24/19](#)
- **Bill Number:** [SB 802](#) [Rodríguez]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to certain notice and license display requirements applicable to massage therapy.
- **Bill Number:** [SB 1219](#) [Alvarado | Sponsor: Senfronia Thompson]  
**Bill Caption:** Relating to human trafficking signs at certain transportation hubs.  
**Senate Hearing Notice:** [Transportation, March 20, 2019](#)  
**TCJE Senate Action:** [Testimony in support](#)  
**Senate Hearing Video:** [Transportation, 3/20/19](#)  
**House Hearing Notice:** [Transportation, May 1, 2019](#)

**TCJE House Action:** Card in support

**House Hearing Video:** Transportation, 5/1/19

***Signed by the Governor; effective on 9/1/2019***

- **Resolution Number:** **HCR 35** [Miller, Shaheen, Charles "Doc" Anderson | Sponsor: Huffman]

**Resolution Caption:** Recognizing human trafficking as a public health issue.

**House Hearing Notice:** Public Health, April 10, 2019

**TCJE House Action:** Testimony in support

**House Hearing Video:** Public Health, 4/10/19

**Senate Hearing Notice:** State Affairs, May 13, 2019

**Senate Hearing Video:** State Affairs, 5/13/19

***Signed by the Governor***

- **Resolution Number:** **HCR 83** [Hunter]  
**Resolution Caption:** Requesting the lieutenant governor and speaker of the house to create a joint interim committee to study human trafficking in Texas.  
**House Hearing Notice:** House Administration, March 25, 2019  
**TCJE House Action:** Card in support  
**House Hearing Video:** House Administration, 3/25/19

## **Other Materials**

- Dignity Journal Article: [Exited Prostitution Survivor Policy Platform](#) [co-authored by 13 survivors of prostitution, including TCJE's Allison Franklin, December 2018]