Good afternoon, my name is Trayce Bradford and I am here in favor of HB3979. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you today.

As I am sure many of you are aware, Texas has a human trafficking problem with an estimated 8,000 in sex trafficking and nearly 250,000 in labor trafficking. This is a multibillion dollar “industry” that pulls in over $150 billion a year world wide and based on reported incidences to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2018, Texas ranks second in the country for number of those trafficked, surpassing Florida and New York.

Having worked with a variety of anti-trafficking groups over the last 15 years, before trafficking was even a national story, the dedication by these people to rescue and walk through restoration has been tireless but there is only so much they can do. Trafficking has sadly over the years, evolved more into networks and are more organized across counties and even states as well as globally and it’s not just some local pusher running women on the corner or out of a club. What has made the job more intricate and difficult for groups to help these women are these more complex structures as well as resources these traffickers can employ. This legislation which assist in bringing extra resources and man power to this fight against trafficking and that is critical.

I have witnessed the restoration work of some of these programs and you can clearly see there are a number of components that go into helping someone heal from being a victim of trafficking. Having justice brought to bear on their particular case, doesn’t just do the soul good for some of these women it is protection, letting them know they were worth the fight but also worth protecting from these traffickers, even from being coerced back into the cycle of being trafficked out of fear of retribution. We need to send the strongest message possible to those that will choose to enslave these fellow citizens that Texas will not hold back on any prudent and viable resources to bring to bear against those who chose to sell a human life!

I want to close with a quote from a friend of mine that has worked in this area of rescue and restoration for years,

“Too many cases are falling through the cracks and we need to support this bill 100% if we want to effect real progress. We must continue to empower the authorities and disempower those profiting from human trafficking.”

Thank you so much for your time today and I would ask you to be vote in favor of HB3979.