Six Years of IL Laws to Hold Sex Traffickers Accountable and Create Resources for Survivors

End Demand Illinois is a campaign to shift law enforcement’s attention to sex traffickers and people who buy sex, while proposing a network of support for survivors of the sex trade. Rose Mary Meyer, BVM, the director of Project IRENE, was a part of the legislative team for these actions.

IL Safe Children Act  2010
This law is the first in the United States to make minors immune from prosecution for prostitution. This law gives police and prosecutors new tools to go after pimps, traffickers and people who buy sex; therefore, the law is quoted in handbooks of procedure for law enforcement personnel.

Justice for Victims of Sex Trafficking Crimes Act  2011
This law offers survivors of sex trafficking the opportunity to have prostitution convictions removed from their records. Illinois was the third state in the nation to pass a law like this.

Reforming the Illinois Human Trafficking Code  2012
This law expands the scope of the state involuntary servitude law by including additional means by which a trafficker can obtain or maintain a victim. The bill removes confusing language from the statute and lessens the emphasis placed on force, which will help prosecutors more effectively use the statute. The bill also extends the time limit for prosecutors to bring charges against traffickers in cases involving minors.

Elimination Felony Prostitution in Illinois  2013
Upgrading prostitution to a felony is no longer allowed in Illinois.

Creating Funding Streams for Specialized Services  2014
New funding streams for specialized services for survivors of prostitution and trafficking are created by this law. Note: No funds from the state are requested in this law because of the fiscal situation in Illinois.

Affirmative Defense for Survivors of Human Trafficking  2015
This law creates an affirmative defense for people charged with prostitution. This allows them to prove that they engaged in prostitution as a result of human trafficking. In camera defense is also provided in this bill; Illinois is the first state in the nation to provide this safety procedure.

I would like to give credit to countless hours of pro bono work by lawyers engaging in support of those taking advantage of these new laws as well as educating law enforcement regarding these new laws.

--Rose Mary Meyer