

# PROTECTED INNOCENCE CHALLENGE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.

## 2016 End of Year Legislative Progress Report

For over five years, the Protected Innocence Challenge has called all states to improve their laws to better prevent and respond to juvenile sex trafficking. In 2015, the fifth annual Protected Innocence Challenge report reflected substantial improvements in state legislative responses. Looking ahead to the sixth annual Protected Innocence Challenge, to be released on November 9, 2016, this End of Year Legislative Progress Report foreshadows another exciting annual report by highlighting changes in state legislation addressing domestic minor sex trafficking.

### Since August 1, 2015:

- 44 states enacted bills related to juvenile sex trafficking.

*Statistic is based on Congressional Quarterly StateTrack report summarized as of August 1, 2016.*

The Protected Innocence Challenge is built upon a comprehensive analysis of each state's statutory scheme, which examines six areas of law surrounding domestic minor sex trafficking:

1   
**Criminalization of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking**

2   
**Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand**

3   
**Criminal Provisions for Traffickers**

4   
**Criminal Provisions for Facilitators**

5   
**Protective Provisions for Child Victims**

6   
**Criminal Justice Tools for Investigation and Prosecution**

## 2016 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Enacted legislation during the 2016 legislative sessions continues to address key policy points outlined within the Protected Innocence Challenge. Newly enacted laws during the 2016 state legislative sessions reflect the efforts of advocates and state legislators across the country who are using the Protected Innocence tools and responding to the challenge to fix legislative gaps that allow trafficked children to remain vulnerable, unidentified and deprived of vital services and justice.

2016 is the first year that all 50 states have a law specifically criminalizing child sex trafficking and 5 more states have enacted legislation that eliminates criminal liability for minors under state prostitution laws. States have also increased other critical victim protections by extending timelines to commence prosecutions and civil cases against trafficking perpetrators and expanding avenues to services. The map on the reverse side highlights some of the legislation enacted during the 2016 session, as well as some pending legislation, that directly addresses key components of the Protected Innocence Challenge legislative framework. The icons correspond to the areas of law analyzed under the Protected Innocence Challenge framework that are impacted by the legislation.

