The third annual Protected Innocence Challenge report released on November 7, 2013 revealed substantial improvements in state legislative responses to domestic minor sex trafficking, as well as the gaps that remain and allow children to be sexually exploited for profit. The comprehensive analysis of each state’s existing laws was based on six areas of law critical to protecting children from and responding to domestic minor sex trafficking. Starting with the inaugural release in 2011, the Protected Innocence Challenge has been a call for state action to bring national change. Now, almost four years later, the legislative changes enacted during the 2014 session demonstrate that the call for change continues to be answered. Strong momentum in the 2014 session addressing domestic minor sex trafficking reflects the efforts of advocates across the country who are using the Protected Innocence tools to press for change, and the state legislators who are responding to the challenge and introducing laws to fix the gaps that allow trafficked children to remain vulnerable, unidentified and deprived of vital services and justice. Not only are the vast majority of states introducing legislation relating to domestic minor sex trafficking, but several states are tackling two of the most challenging areas of law addressed by the Protected Innocence Framework—demand and protective provisions for child victims.

Since August 1, 2013:
- 530 bills that relate to the Protected Innocence Challenge framework were introduced in 42 states and D.C.
- 37 states enacted 123 bills relating to the Protected Innocence Challenge framework.

Statistics are based on Congressional Quarterly StateTrack report summarized on August 1, 2014.

**CRIMINALIZATION OF DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING**

**Colorado**
- Enacted legislation substantially revised the human trafficking laws to specifically criminalize trafficking of children for commercial sexual activity and ensures availability of the racketeering law to combat domestic minor sex trafficking.

**Arizona**
- Added child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children offenses as predicate crimes under the racketeering law.

**Pennsylvania**
- Enacted a law that makes it a first degree felony to subject a minor to trafficking for sexual servitude and applies the offense to all minors, regardless of age, without the requirement for proof of force or coercion.

**New Hampshire**
- Passed an amendment to the trafficking in persons law eliminating the requirement to prove force, fraud or coercion when the victim of sex trafficking is a minor.

**Delaware**
- Enacted legislation expanding protection for minor victims under the human trafficking law by removing the staggered penalties based on age and use of force or threat.

**Louisiana**
- Passed a bill that amends the definition of “racketeering activity” to include several offenses involving commercial sexual exploitation of children.
CRIMINAL PROVISIONS ADDRESSING DEMAND

Colorado
Enacted legislation that prohibits defendants from raising mistake of age as a defense to human trafficking of a child for sexual servitude.

Delaware
Established a new law that human traffickers are subject to asset forfeiture following a conviction for a trafficking offense.

Colorado
Mandatory restitution to victims for trafficking convictions established.

Maryland
Increased penalty for enticing or harboring a child under 16 for the purpose of prostitution from a misdemeanor to a felony.

Hawaii
Passed legislation eliminating a mistake of age defense for buyers charged with solicitation of a minor for prostitution and requiring buyers convicted of soliciting a minor for prostitution to pay a fine of at least $5,000.

Tennessee
Amended the patronizing prostitution law to refer to the trafficking in persons law for prosecution when the victim is a minor, significantly enhancing the penalty for buying sex with a minor.

Louisiana
Enacted legislation requiring seizure and forfeiture of traffickers’ personal property when convicted of offenses involving commercial sexual exploitation of children through prostitution.

Virginia
Enacted legislation amending the pandering law to create a new CSEC offense that reaches buyers of sex with minors and requires buyers convicted of solicitation of prostitution with a minor to register as sex offenders.

Ohio
Amended the solicitation law to specifically criminalize soliciting a minor for prostitution by providing a heightened penalty and required those convicted of soliciting a minor for prostitution to register as a sex offender.

Pennsylvania
Enacted a law establishing mandatory restitution for traffickers convicted under the new human trafficking statute.

Rhode Island
Raised the maximum penalty for sex trafficking of a minor to 50 years imprisonment.

Iowa
Enacted a bill establishing a Class D felony for solicitation of commercial sexual activity and for purchasing or offering to purchase sex acts from a minor under the prostitution statute.

Iowa
Amendments to the state pimping law established a new CSEC offense, ensuring that traffickers face heightened penalties when the victim is a minor.

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CRIMINAL PROVISIONS FOR FACILITATORS

Arizona Facilitators convicted under the child prostitution law now face longer sentences and higher minimum penalties.

Louisiana Under enacted legislation, facilitators who allow their premises to be used for prostitution offenses involving minors face seizure of personal property and forfeiture upon conviction.

Delaware New law criminalizes knowingly benefiting financially or receiving anything of value for facilitating a human trafficking offense.

Florida Facilitators now face a life sentence for benefiting financially from the sex trafficking of any minor under 18.

PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS FOR CHILD VICTIMS

New legislation allows the county attorney to refer a minor charged with prostitution to the department of human services as a child in need of services instead of commencing delinquency proceedings.

South Dakota Established a civil cause of action for victims of human trafficking offenses committed under state or federal law.

Utah Minors suspected of prostitution must now be referred by law enforcement to services through child welfare instead of delinquency proceedings when charged with a first offense.

Colorado Passed legislation that allows a prosecution for human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude to be brought at any time.

Tennessee Amended law to expressly prohibit a defendant charged with patronizing prostitution or promoting prostitution from raising consent of the minor to the commercial sex acts as a defense.

Florida Passed a bill that establishes new guidelines for child welfare to assess victims and provide housing in safe houses or foster homes and appropriates funds to implement specialized victim services.

Iowa New law criminalizes knowingly benefiting financially or receiving anything of value for facilitating a human trafficking offense.

New Hampshire Enacted legislation protects minors from juvenile delinquency proceedings and criminal prosecution for prostitution-related offenses committed as a direct result of being trafficked.

New York Enacted law allows 16 and 17 year olds arrested for prostitution to be directed away from criminal prosecution and into PINS proceedings at the discretion of the court.

Delaware Enacted legislation establishing that minors who engage in commercial sexual activity are presumed to be neglected or abused, extends "rape-shield" protections to minor victims of sex trafficking and eliminates the statute of limitations for prosecuting domestic minor sex trafficking offenses.
To find your state Report Card, track pending bills, download advocacy tools, contact your representative and take action on important advocacy initiatives, please visit: sharedhope.org/policy