



NEBRASKA STRENGTHENS LAWS TO FIGHT CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING, RAISES THEIR GRADE

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nebraska passed laws to combat domestic minor sex trafficking and [raised their grade](#) from a C to B this year, according to an annual State Report Card released by [Shared Hope International](#) (SHI), the only U.S. NGO working in every state to end child sex trafficking through legal reform. In previous years, Nebraska passed key legislation, preventing minors engaged in commercial sex from being prosecuted for prostitution offenses.

"We are excited to see states, like Nebraska, leading the nation in protecting child sex trafficking victims from being charged or prosecuted for the crimes committed against them," said SHI founder Linda Smith.

SHI started the annual report card—known as the Protected Innocence Challenge—six years ago, in 2011. That year, 26 states got Fs and 15 had Ds. Over the last six years, **Nebraska**, along with states across the nation, **enacted important laws**:

- The passage of LB 1106 on April 20, 2016 expanded financial penalties for human trafficking offenders.
- From 2011 to 2016 Nebraska's Protected Innocence Challenge grade has gone up from an F to a B.
- Sex trafficking of a minor is a crime in Nebraska and does not require proof of force, fraud, or coercion.
- Nebraska is a leader in the nation, as one of only 19 states and DC, where children can no longer be charged with prostitution and criminalized for the crime being committed against them.

SHI research **found critical gaps** in these areas in the laws of **Nebraska**:

- In Nebraska a child needs to have an identified trafficker in order to be considered a victim of sex trafficking, potentially resulting in some commercially sexually exploited children not being identified as victims of trafficking.
- State law does not provide an avenue to specialized services for child victims of sex trafficking.

[Shared Hope International](#) is an anti-trafficking organization focusing on prevention, restoration and justice for victims of sex trafficking. Founded in 1998 by Congresswoman Linda Smith, Shared Hope is a trusted leader for training, research, restorative development, and legislative development.

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MEDIA MATERIALS:

For media convenience, a variety of resources are available at www.sharedhope.org/press. Video clips, including sex trafficking survivor comments, are available at this location: <https://vimeo.com/user12564384/videos>. Videos are password protected, please enter password sharedmedia1 to access media clips.