



NEW REPORT REFLECTS NEW HAMPSHIRE'S STEADY LEGISLATIVE COMMITMENT TO COMBATING CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

WASHINGTON, D.C., A report released today by Shared Hope International demonstrates a 7-year trend in improved state laws that combat child sex trafficking. With newly enacted legislation, HB 94, sponsored by Representative Linda Massimilla, New Hampshire exemplifies this trend with a commitment to increasing victim protections and holding buyers accountable.

Shared Hope applauds the leadership of Representative Massimilla, who declared that, "The passage of HB 94 puts buyers of sex with minors, as well as those who traffic, on notice, that New Hampshire is not open for business when it comes to the exploitation of minors. We will continue to strengthen our laws to stiffen penalties against trafficking and increase the protection of trafficking victims and their rights."

As the only U.S. NGO working in every state to end the scourge of child sex trafficking through legal reform, Shared Hope launched the Protected Innocence Challenge in 2011. The *Challenge* provides annual Report Cards, grading all 50 states and D.C., by applying a framework composed of 41 areas of law that set the minimum standards for combating child sex trafficking.

During the first year, 26 states, including New Hampshire, received a failing grade. The 2017 Protected Innocence Challenge illustrates significant progress in our overall score as a nation – the national average has risen 23 points on the grade scale in seven years, from 59% to 82%. Significantly, in that same period of time, New Hampshire increased its own grade from an F to a B. This year alone they increased their grade from a C to a B, one of only nine states to raise their grade this year.

"States like New Hampshire show what can be accomplished with a legislature that understands the complexity of trafficking," remarked Linda Smith, Founder and President of Shared Hope International. "They return each year to hone and improve their laws, always keeping in mind the end goal: protecting New Hampshire children and ending child sex trafficking in their state."

Shared Hope's grades will be released in a livestream briefing on November 15 at 11am. [Watch here](#). It will be followed at 12pm by a virtual panel discussion with survivors of sex trafficking. [Register for the panel here](#).

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[Shared Hope International](#) is an international anti-trafficking organization focusing on prevention, restoration and justice for victims of sex trafficking. [Linda Smith](#), served as a state legislator and Member of Congress from Washington State (1983-1998), and is the author of *Renting Lacy* (2009). She founded Shared Hope in 1998.

MEDIA MATERIALS:

For media convenience, a variety of resources are available at www.sharedhope.org/press.