

A RETURN TO UNSAFE HARBOR?

Experimental program for child victims would undermine the Safe Harbor Act.

Lawmakers and Gov. Rick Scott got it right in 2012. Safe Harbor was groundbreaking, treating sex trafficked children as VICTIMS and NOT CRIMINALS. It promised assistance and access to caring child welfare professionals.

The Children's Campaign believes it was a great idea then, and it's a great idea now.



A Return to Lock-Up Threatens Progress

An effort is underway to lock up child victims again as part of an experimental "pilot program." Why? Because of ONE failed program in Miami that was open for only **10** weeks! Even its former program manager says it's wrong to backslide.

The latest proposals **are expensive, will be invasive to the liberty of the victim, and simply won't work.**

Under the new plan, children could be locked up for months or longer in psychiatric wards, detention-like facilities, or so-called "secure" houses that are little more than residential jails.



Trouble Awaits?

- The cycle of trauma and victimization of the children will be repeated.
- The latest proposals play into the hands of traffickers who tell victims, if they leave, they will be locked up, won't be trusted and won't be listened to.
 - If child victims escape from a "locked up" treatment program or "act out" and hit a staff member, they could be arrested and tossed into the juvenile justice system.
 - The new plan shifts attention and money away from services designed to break the cycle of trafficking.

Victims Support Safe Harbor

All of Florida's child victims are at risk due to the program failure in Miami, which is the root of this radical change to Safe Harbor.

In our interviews with survivor victims, they say repeatedly, "Don't lock us up; don't isolate us; don't shame us or treat us as damaged goods."

JOIN US IN PROTECTING FLORIDA'S SAFE HARBOR ACT

A locked-down psychiatric ward or other detention facility or setting where treatment IS FORCED on victims to "deprogram them" is bad policy and does not represent respect for victims.

DON'T RETURN TO UNSAFE HARBOR. Stop HB 7141 and SB 1724.

Go to www.iamforkids.org for the latest information. Call us at 850-425-2600 for more information. Ask for Roy, Linda, Ben, or Amanda. We'll get back to you.



About The Children's Campaign

The Children's Campaign is Florida's most respected youth advocacy organization now celebrating 20 years of service to children.

