



INDIANA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 16, 2017
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Senate committee renames crime; corrects an unfair label

The Indiana House Courts and Criminal Code Committee approved a small change in the criminal code on Wednesday, March 15 that will prevent victims of trafficking from an unfair label, thanks to Senate sponsor Roderick Bray and Morgan County Chief Deputy Prosecutor Robert Cline who testified in support of Senate Bill 100.

Chief Deputy Cline told the committee about a Morgan County victim who received repeated unsolicited propositions of money for sex. "Eventually, the victim grew tired of the harassment and contacted the prosecutor's office about filing charges, she was dismayed to learn the charge would be patronizing a prostitute," he said. "A change in the law would also fit when juveniles are trafficked. They should not be seen as prostitutes, they're victims. It's not right to call a victim a prostitute."

Sen. Bray's bill changes the charge of patronizing a prostitute to making an unlawful proposition. "It's not just being politically correct," he said, "some women are victims and unfairly labeled as prostitutes. This simple change could have a real life effect on these victims."

The bill passed the committee by a vote of 9-0.

END



Robert Cline

About the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council: The IPAC is a non-partisan, independent state judicial branch agency that supports Indiana's 91 prosecuting attorneys and their chief deputies. It is governed by a 10-member board of directors of elected prosecuting attorneys. The IPAC assists prosecuting attorneys in the preparation of manuals, legal research and training seminars. It serves as a liaison to local, state, and federal agencies, study commissions, and community groups in an effort to support law enforcement and promote the fair administration of justice.

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