

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE SPOTLIGHT

What a State Can Do - A Texas  
Perspective:  
Senator Leticia Van de Putte



# Texas – Where we were...

2003

- **HB 2096** (Picket)
  - The first law that criminalized human trafficking in Texas.



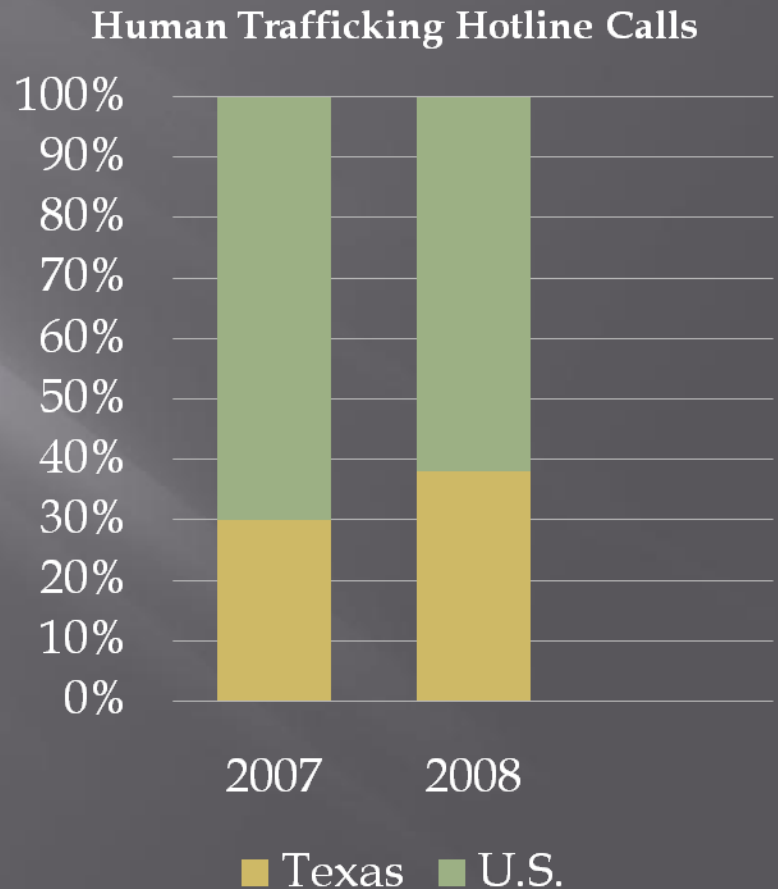
2007

- **SB 11** (Carona)
  - Requires AG and HHSC report.
- **SB 1287** (Van de Putte)
  - required the posting of hotline notices in certain businesses that are licensed under the Alcoholic Beverage Code

80% of human trafficking victims work in locations where alcohol is served.

# Where we are heading...

- ▣ The National Human Trafficking Hotline receives more calls from Texas than any other state.
  - In 2007, 30% of all the National Human Trafficking Hotline calls were from Texas.
  - In 2008, 38% of all calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline were from Texas.
- ▣ In a survey of the callers, it was gathered that **majority of them learned of the number from posters in community businesses.**



# 2008: Raising Awareness



# 2009

## HB 4009 (Weber/Van de Putte)

Created a **victim's assistance program** for domestic victims of human trafficking;

Established statewide **Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force**;

Required Task Force to submit **report** to legislature by December 1, 2010;

Mandated and implemented **training** for police, prosecutors and judges on human trafficking;

Requires a study of **alternatives** to the juvenile justice system for victims.

# Where we are at today...

January 21<sup>st</sup>:  
Statewide  
Taskforce  
Kicked off

July 20<sup>th</sup>: Texas  
Juvenile Probation  
Commission met to  
study and make  
recommendations  
on alternatives to  
the juvenile justice  
system for children  
who engage in acts  
of prostitution.

July 30<sup>th</sup>:  
Recommendations  
from committee  
members due

December 1:  
Statewide  
Taskforce Report  
due.

January 5, 2011:  
Texas Legislature  
Convenes

# Awareness and Action are on the rise across our nation...

- ▣ According to NCSL data, laws addressing Human Trafficking are on the rise:
  - In 2008 - 5 laws were enacted
  - 2009 - 16 states introduced 39 bills, 16 laws are enacted
  - 2010 - 12 states have introduced 22 bills
  - Texas goes back into session in 2011 ;-)

