



March 25, 2025

House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island State Capitol
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H 5563 – The Human Trafficking Prevention Notice and Training Act

Dear Committee Members:

The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) is the leading advocate for every segment of the U.S. lodging industry including major chains, independent hotels, management companies, REITs, bed and breakfasts, industry partners, and more. On behalf of AHLA, we thank you for your leadership and the opportunity to express our strong support for H 5563.

AHLA, its members, and the AHLA Foundation are steadfast in our commitment to human trafficking awareness and prevention. H 5563 plays a crucial role in these efforts by ensuring both hotel and short-term rental operators are equipped with the necessary tools to recognize and respond to signs of trafficking through mandated annual training.

Combating trafficking is a core pillar of our industry, with hotels leading the way in prevention and awareness initiatives. AHLA and the AHLA Foundation continue to support mandated anti-human trafficking training at both the state and local levels. In partnership with globally recognized anti-trafficking organizations, we have developed a free, industry-specific virtual training available in 34 languages and designed with a survivor centric approach. To date, more than 2.2 million anti-trafficking trainings have been completed.

While training and awareness are essential, they represent only part of the hotel industry's broader commitment. In 2022, the AHLA Foundation expanded its efforts by launching the "No Room for Trafficking" (NRFT) Survivor Fund, the industry's first initiative of its kind. The NRFT Survivor Fund provides grants to community-based organizations that equip survivors with the critical resources they need to break the cycle of re-victimization. Since its launch, the NRFT Survivor Fund has raised nearly \$4 million in direct contributions and awarded \$1.1 million in grants.

AHLA and the AHLA Foundation are committed to advancing industry-wide human trafficking awareness and prevention training. This heinous crime knows no boundaries, affecting millions across the globe. The lodging industry is uniquely positioned to prevent and respond to this illicit, inhumane trade. No sector is immune to this crime, and H 5563



represents a crucial first step towards a united, comprehensive approach to combat human trafficking.

AHLA is dedicated to working with state and federal lawmakers to drive industry-wide action and advance legislative efforts like H 5563, which will further protect the most vulnerable and strengthen our industry's role in this critical cause. We respectfully urge your support of this vital legislation.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at bcastillo@ahla.com.

Sincerely,

Bianca Castillo
American Hotel & Lodging Association