



Board of Directors

Jamar Hardy, Chair
Edina Realty

Jason Marvin, Vice Chair
Boeckmann, Graftstrom & Mayer LLC

Matt Amendola
General Mills

Tom Arneson
*Hennepin County Attorney's Office
Juvenile Division*

David Behrens
Graco

Sara Durham
Mall of America

Kendra Garrett Ph.D.
*St. Catherine University
University of St. Thomas*

Jade Jorgenson
Fredrickson & Byron P.A.

Craig A. Kepler
Ballard Spahr LLP

Toxi Nelson
Keller Williams

Michael O'Neil
Target

RaeShonda Walker
Former Client, MSW

Christine Young
Choice Bank

Beth Holger
CEO, The Link

Community Advisory Board

Tom Nordyke, Chair
Nordyke, Inc.

Judge Diane Alshouse
Ramsey County Judge, Retired

Senator Scott Dibble
State Legislature, District 61

Commissioner Laurie Halverson
County Commissioner, District 3

Kelley Lindquist
Art Space

Jim Marshall
*Founder
Former Player, Minnesota Vikings*

Oscar Reed
*Founder
Former Player, Minnesota Vikings*

Gene Scapanaki
*Former Link Board Chair
St. Thomas University, Retired*

February 7, 2023

Dear Committee Members and Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in strong support of the revisions to SF 133.

I have worked with youth experiencing homelessness and those who have been victims of sex trafficking for over 20 years with the last 10 of them at The Link. The Link is a nonprofit based in north Minneapolis that provides a continuum of services, street outreach, emergency shelter and housing for youth and young families who are experiencing homelessness, have been victims of sex trafficking and/or who are involved in the juvenile justice or foster care system.

As an organization that works with victims of trafficking we strongly support the revisions that are being proposed through SF 133. Labor trafficking is a serious issue in our state and one that far too often goes unseen and the victims are not able to receive the support and justice that they deserve.

The proposed revisions in SF 133 would provide an opportunity to make our state labor trafficking law easier to use by removing confusing language around the "status and condition of a debtor", replacing "blackmail" with "reputational harm" and providing context to "use or abuse of a legal process". It would also expand the kinds of harm that labor trafficking does to be more accurate – to include "bodily, psychological, economic and reputational harm". Last but not least it would include three levels of seriousness for sentencing based on the harm experienced by the victim.

By making these changes to the labor trafficking law it would hopefully help us to prosecute more traffickers, help support more victims and work towards the overall goal of reducing labor trafficking in our state.

Thank you for your consideration and support. If you have any questions I can be reached at bholger@thelinkmn.org or 612-636-4260.

Sincerely,

Beth Holger, CEO

