Research exercise: Ohio Laws to Combat Human Trafficking: Somewhat Flawed Despite Significant Strides Made

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State Law and Human Trafficking: Prosecuting Slavery in Ohio
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Recent Legislation:

**Ohio Senate Bill 235**
- Signed into effect by Gov. Strickland Dec. 2010
- Defines HT to include both labor and sex trafficking
- Made HT a stand-alone second degree felony
- Amends criminal charge of conspiracy to include HT

**Weaknesses:** Sen. Seitz’s amendments; Protection of “Johns”; Redundant provision

**Ohio House Bill 262**
- Importuning applies to “reckless disregard”
- Procuring is a felony if victim’s under 18 (lack of knowledge is indefensible)

**Obstacles:** Funding, ignorance and sympathy for the demand side

**Includes Victim-Centered Provisions**

**Putting It in Perspective:**
- By conservative estimates, 1,861 Ohioans are believed to be trafficked in the state today
- At least 6,316 are at risk
- Toledo is fourth leading city in the nation in terms of number of arrests, investigations and rescue of domestic minor sex trafficking victims of U.S. cities.

**Prior Law: The HT Specification**
- Included no actual HT offense
- “Human Trafficking Specification” must be proven—additional 18 to months to 10 years
- Must prove two felonies pertaining to HT, add specification and prove all elements therein.

**SPECIFICATION HAS NEVER BEEN PROSECUTED**