

# New Legislature Passed To Protect Child Victims of Human Trafficking

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING** | NOVEMBER 28, 2012 | BY: JOY BROOKS |

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New legislature was passed this week in the Senate to protect children who are victims of child pornography and sex trafficking. The bill called the “Child Protection Act of 2012” was sponsored by Texas Senator John Cornyn. It passed the Senate late on November 27, and is waiting to be signed by President Obama to become law.

The bill had previously passed the House of Representative and was sponsored in Congress by Sen. Cornyn and Senator Blumenthal (D-Conn.). The bill was part of the Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act of 2011. Introduced by Sens. Cornyn and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.). The bill is awaiting presidential approval to become law.

“We need to provide law enforcement with every tool they need to crack down on the most vile criminals – child sex predators and traffickers – and protect the innocent young people who fall victim to these heinous crimes. This is an issue we can all agree on, and I’m pleased Congress has passed this important measure in a bipartisan fashion,” Sen. Cornyn



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The bill will provide increased sentences for people convicted of possession of child pornography depicting a minor under the age of 12-years-old. Currently, there is a maximum sentence of 10 years but if the bill becomes law it will increase to 20 years.

It will require federal judges to issue a protective order for child witnesses. The bill will also make it easier for U.S. Marshalls to acquire evidence and apprehend fugitive sex offenders.

The legislature will also reauthorize funds for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces, which train officials on how to deal with cases of child sexual abuse.

This legislature will provide needed protection and justice to child victims of [human trafficking](http://www.examiner.com/topic/human-trafficking). The legislature is a step in the right direction for needed

laws in the United States to protect child victims. Texas Sen. Cornyn is a great advocate for children that are

being exploited here in the United States

It should be noted that of the 2011 calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, a total of 79 related to "POTENTIAL victims of human trafficking.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline received over 453 calls from Texas and over 100 were from the North Texas. If you believe that someone you know is a victim of human trafficking contact 1-888-373-7888.

You can visit the Polaris Project to see the actual statistics/ phone calls from 2011 or you can click here to see the state by state comparison of phone calls and types of calls made to this hotline. The majority of calls made to the hotline were for information or were followup calls and did not relate to actual victims of human trafficking.



Joy Brooks, is an abolitionist who began a faith based ministry called Prayer Freedom. To bring awareness and education about Human Trafficking and Slavery to people all over the World. She has partnered with other non-profits fighting against Human Trafficking. She believes that she will see...