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Contact: David Sorensen, (207) 205-7793
Communications Director, Maine House Republicans

Rep. Amy Volk's Bill to Fight Human Trafficking Enacted Unanimously by House

Volk thanks supporters for help in passing measure, says long way to go

AUGUSTA – The Maine House of Representatives on Wednesday morning enacted Scarborough Rep. Amy Volk's bill to assist human trafficking victims with a unanimous, 141-0 vote. The measure, [LD 1730](#), establishes duress as an affirmative defense to the crime of sex trafficking, levies fines on persons convicted of sex trafficking, and allows victims to seek compensation from the Victims' Compensation Fund.

"I'd like to thank everyone who came out in support of this important initiative to help Maine's most vulnerable women," said Rep. Volk. "However, this is just one step on a long road toward winning this fight against human trafficking. The women who are trapped in this cycle of violence and coercion deserve nothing less than the Legislature's best efforts to ensure justice for both perpetrators and victims of human trafficking."

Many organizations [supported](#) Rep. Volk's bill, including the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, Maine Chiefs of Police Association, Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, Maine Women's Lobby, National Association of Social Workers-Maine, Concerned Women for America of Maine, the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and others.

Rep. Volk fought hard in the Legislature and in the media last fall to move her proposal to the floor after some [initial resistance and controversy](#).

"We do our best work together, and I'm glad I was able to work with my colleagues across the aisle to craft and pass this bipartisan initiative to help Maine women," added Rep. Volk.

LD 1730 now goes to the Senate for enactment and finally to Governor Paul LePage's desk to be signed into law.

[Attached photos: (1) Rep. Amy Volk (R-Scarborough); (2) The roll call board during enactment of LD 1730]

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