



PA House of Representatives
Republican Policy Committee

414, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
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Rep. Joshua D. Kail
Chairman

PA House Republican Policy Committee Hearing

“Uncovering Human Trafficking”

September 19, 2024, at 10 a.m.

Three Springs Ministries
874 Linck Hill Road
Morris, PA 16938

- 10:00 a.m. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance
- Grassroots Advocacy Panel**
- 10:10 a.m. Korrin Moon
Founder, Lantern Rescue
- 10:15 a.m. Scott Henry
President, Northern Tier Law Enforcement Instructors Group
- 10:20 a.m. Questions for the Grassroots Advocacy Panel
- Prosecution and Protection Panel**
- 10:40 a.m. Hon. Joseph C. Peters, Esq.
District Attorney, Wyoming County
- 10:45 a.m. Heather Castellino
Chief Deputy Attorney General, Human Trafficking Section, PA Office of Attorney General
- 10:50 a.m. Gabriel Fabian
Special Agent, Human Trafficking Section, PA Office of Attorney General
- 10:55 a.m. Questions for the Prosecution and Protection Panel
- 11:15 a.m. Closing Comments



Testifier Biographies

PA House of Representatives Policy Committee Hearing *“Uncovering Human Trafficking”*



Korrin Moon **Founder, Lantern Rescue**

Korrin Moon is a 2023 graduate of Penn State Law with a unique background in combatting human trafficking, both domestically and internationally. While many aspiring law students prepare for the LSAT in traditional settings, Moon studied while overseas, often between operations aimed at rescuing trafficking victims. A former Marine Corps Russian translator, Moon's passion for fighting human trafficking began during her undergraduate years at Lycoming College. This commitment led her to co-found Lantern Rescue, a nonprofit organization dedicated to training local law enforcement in foreign countries to combat trafficking year-round.

Moon now serves as a special prosecutor in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, where she focuses on human trafficking and child sexual abuse material (CSAM) cases. Through Lantern Rescue, she has expanded efforts to educate and assist law enforcement globally, while also providing resources to U.S. district attorneys. Moon's legal expertise is critical in both the prosecution of traffickers and the development of better legal frameworks for combating trafficking worldwide.

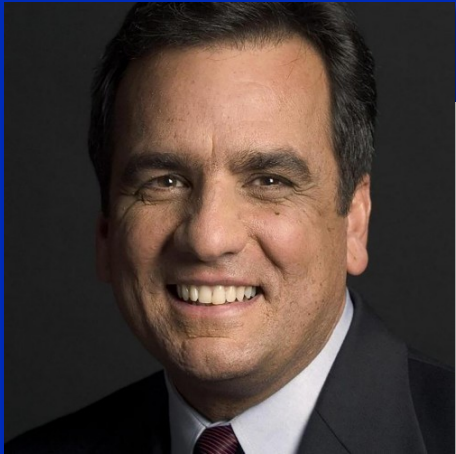
Scott Henry **President, Northern Tier Law Enforcement Instructors Group**

Scott Henry is an accomplished law enforcement professional with over three decades of experience. After earning his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Mansfield University, he graduated from the PA State Police Academy in 1989 and served with the PA State Police until 2009, where he worked primarily as a Criminal Investigator.

Following his retirement, Henry became the Chief County Detective for the Tioga County District Attorney's Office from 2010 to 2017. He then transitioned to leadership roles at Mansfield University, where he directed the university's police department, municipal police academy, and public safety training initiatives.

Currently, Henry is the President of the Northern Tier Law Enforcement Instructors Group (NTLEIG) and works with the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (NPRC) to develop public safety workforce programs. He also collaborates with Lantern Rescue to provide human trafficking education and training to law enforcement, emergency personnel, and communities across Central and Northern Pennsylvania.





**Hon. Joseph C. Peters, Esq.
District Attorney, Wyoming County**

Joseph C. Peters, Esq. served a total of four years in two White Houses (Clinton and G.W. Bush) as a senior official in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (Drug Czar's Office) focusing on domestic and international drug cartels and terrorist organizations where he also oversaw southwest U.S. border issues of drug smuggling and human trafficking. Significantly, Joe was working in the Executive Office of the President on 9/11, and thereafter assisted in the reorganization of international and

domestic counter-terror agencies and programs across the U.S. government, working with then, Secretary Tom Ridge in standing-up the now, Department of Homeland Security (OHS).

Joe was also a federal prosecutor with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). He was assigned to a special unit to conduct Mafia investigations and prosecutions in Philadelphia. After decimating the Mafia in Philadelphia and Atlantic City, Joe and his prosecution team received the DOJ's, "John Marshall Award for Outstanding Legal Achievement" in recognition of the conviction of Philadelphia/Atlantic City Mafia boss Nicodemo "Little Nicky" Scarfo and 16 of his mob captains and soldiers in a three-month trial including six murders (one involving a judge) and various other organized crime and racketeering enterprises. After that case, in a media article that was circulated worldwide, Joe and his fellow prosecutors were dubbed by the Associated Press as the "Modern Day Untouchables."

In his early days as a state prosecutor, Joe served in the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General for over 17 years under six elected Attorneys General of both political parties and rose through the ranks in roles including law clerk, Deputy Attorney General, Chief Deputy Attorney General and Executive Deputy Attorney General.

Joe began his law enforcement career as a police officer working in both undercover and uniformed capacities. The police aspect of his career culminated in being named Director of Pennsylvania's statewide Bureau of Narcotics Investigations (BNI) as part of PA's Office of Attorney General (OAG). Joe commanded over 100 undercover narcotics agents across Pennsylvania partnered with undercover troopers, federal agents and local county Drug Task Forces which he created.

Joe was honored by his fellow statewide police chiefs by being selected as a life member by the PA Chief's of Police Association, wherein one of 1,200 members is named each year to this honor. He also attained life member status in the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) wherein he also held a seat on the IACP's prestigious Committee on Terrorism. In this capacity, Joe worked with senior counter- terror and intelligence leaders from various countries around the world.

For almost two decades, Joe has served as an expert commentator on police, intelligence, drug, national security and foreign and domestic terrorism issues for the Fox News Channel, as well as various other American news outlets, as well as internationally, including those in London and Rome. He has been guest lecturer to law enforcement, intelligence and national security agencies from around the world.

Heather Castellino
Chief Deputy Attorney General, Human Trafficking
Section, PA Office of Attorney General

Heather is a career prosecutor with extensive experience in combating organized crime and human trafficking. After earning her law degree from Villanova University, she spent five years as a District Attorney in Bucks County, specializing in appellate work. In 2000, she joined the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, where she has since risen through the ranks. For over two decades, Heather has been a senior deputy attorney general in the Organized Crime Division, tackling complex cases ranging from large-scale drug trafficking and identity fraud to multi-state human trafficking rings.

Since 2008, Heather has focused on prosecuting human trafficking cases in collaboration with various law enforcement agencies, including the Pennsylvania State Police and Homeland Security Investigations. Her efforts have resulted in numerous convictions in state and federal courts. In recognition of her dedication, Heather was recently promoted to Chief Deputy Attorney General of the newly established Human Trafficking Division, where she continues her work to combat this global issue.

Heather holds a Political Science degree from Temple University and a Juris Doctor from Villanova Law School.



Gabriel Fabian
Special Agent, Human Trafficking Section, PA Office of
Attorney General

Supervisory Special Agent Gabriel is a special agent employed by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General working in the Human Trafficking Section.

He is cross-designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations as a Task Force Officer (TFO) detailed to the Philadelphia Office – Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Group. He has over fourteen (14) years of law enforcement experience.

Prior to his employment with the PAOAG, he was previously employed by the State of Maryland Department of Public Safety as a polygraph examiner, the Township of Bethel as a municipal police officer, by the Pennsylvania State Police as a Trooper, and he has worked abroad combatting human trafficking with an NGO

Korrin Moon, Lantern Rescue
Testimony
September 19, 2024
Uncovering Human Trafficking

Chairman Josh Kail, Representative Owlett, members of the Policy Committee, and other notable guests, thank you for being here with us today and dedicating this time to combatting human trafficking.

I am here today on behalf of Lantern Rescue where I am honored to serve as the President and Founder. Lantern Rescue is a 501C3 non-profit organization that is committed to ending human trafficking. Lantern Rescue focuses on empowering local law enforcement and communities by giving them the training and resources necessary to rescue victims of human trafficking and arrest and prosecute their traffickers. This approach exponentially increases the army of people combatting this horrific crime around the world and allows more and more victims to be reached every day. Currently Lantern Rescue is working in 12 countries around the world, one of which is the United States.

When I first started Lantern Rescue, I knew that human trafficking was happening in the United States, as it is in every country in the world, however I naively believed that American law enforcement had the training and resources necessary to investigate and prosecute human trafficking crimes, and that they did not need any help. I was wrong.

As I began helping at a District Attorney's office here in Pennsylvania, I quickly realized that officers and prosecutors did not have the knowledge or training required to adequately combat these crimes. Through no fault of their own, officers were not receiving training on human trafficking. Officers that have spoken to us after receiving some of our trainings have tearfully told us that they know they missed victims in the past and can see their faces now thinking back on those interactions, that they overlooked those victims because they didn't know what human trafficking really looked like and that they would never miss a victim again.

Prosecutors have missed the opportunity to charge a trafficker with human trafficking and miscategorized those crimes as something else, simply because they didn't know different. How did we get here? How did we as a law enforcement community get to the point that we are missing human trafficking victims and that we are missing traffickers? I believe we are here because of the proliferation of misconceptions about human trafficking and the lack of training on the realities of it.

By definition human trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain a labor or commercial sex act. That definition leaves most of us wanting for more. What is human trafficking really? Human trafficking is really happening here in Pennsylvania, human trafficking is really happening to kids in school with your own kids, human trafficking is really happening between parents and their own children. Misconceptions about human trafficking are proliferated by the media and well meaning, but misunderstanding citizens on social media.

Misconceptions such as, **human trafficking victims are always kidnapped, human trafficking victims are always foreigners, human trafficking victims are moved to a new place and have to cross borders, and that given the opportunity victims would run into the arms of police and identify themselves as a trafficking victim and ask to be saved.** These are all incorrect.

It is very uncommon for trafficking victims to be kidnapped into trafficking, most frequently traffickers know their victims and are often related or community members. To be blunt, traffickers do not want to deal in stolen goods and bring an increased risk of being caught on to themselves. Traffickers groom their victims over long periods of time. They do so to prevent the victim from being scared off, to increase the victim's reliance on the trafficker and develop a false emotional tie to them so the victim is less willing to turn themselves in.

The majority of trafficking victims in Pennsylvania are Pennsylvanians. Traffickers are not always bringing in victims from other states or countries, the most "bang for their buck" is to find victims in their own locality to exploit, lessening the costs of transport and as said before, most people think that if someone isn't missing they can't be a victim of human trafficking, this misconception allows traffickers to operate in plain sight. Sometimes trafficking victims are moved around, especially in foreign countries where they are enticed away from their families by false job opportunities, but for the purpose of this hearing, staying focused on Pennsylvania most victims are trafficked within their own state. And finally most victims don't know they are victims, it is a misconception to believe that a victim would go running towards a cop to be saved if given the chance.

The reality is, most victims don't know they are victims, because of the grooming as stated before, they believe that they have chosen this life, that they owe something to their trafficker, or maybe they are even protective or emotionally connected to their trafficker. Traffickers also frequently convince their victims that the victims themselves are the ones who will be arrested if the police come, not the traffickers.

How can we do better?

We need to provide more training to law enforcement and communities around Pennsylvania, Lantern Rescue has found success in getting to victims and arresting traffickers by training citizens and law enforcement officers that are invested into their own communities, allowing those with the closest connection to the area and the victims to be the ones saving them.

Trainings that Lantern provides are made to fit the situation and the need. They range from a couple hours to a couple days of training for law enforcement, speaking to school age students, colleges, churches, hospitals, businesses and anyone else engaged in the community. These trainings are catered to the audience and what they can do if they believe they have encountered a victim of human trafficking.

Tips from the community can go nowhere without the police knowing how to handle that tip, which makes the law enforcement training component so vital. The tips from the community are also vital, as without them law enforcement would miss these victims, that don't know they're victims. Training law enforcement and spreading awareness into the community on what the realities of human trafficking are essential to dispelling the misconceptions around human trafficking which will allow us to reach more victims and arrest and prosecute more traffickers.

This is a heavy topic to discuss, and we are all so grateful for you coming to hear about it today. Thank you.

REPUBLICAN HOUSE POLICY COMMITTEE

09/19/24

UNCOVERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SCOTT HENRY

NORTHERN TIER LAW ENFORCEMENT INSTRUCTORS GROUP NORTHERN PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL COLLEGE

Good morning. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak before this committee regarding Human Trafficking, and the need to enhance training, education, and awareness on the topic of Combating Human Trafficking.

I am Scott Henry, currently a Workforce Development Law Enforcement and Public Safety training contractor and provider for the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (NPRC), and President of the Northern Tier Law Enforcement Instructors Group, LLC. I have over 38 years of Law Enforcement background which included 4 years as a Williamsport Bureau of Police officer, 21 years with the Pennsylvania State Police, 7 years as Chief County Detective for the Tioga County District Attorney's Office, 5 years as Chief of Police for the Mansfield University Police Department, and currently I stay active in the Law Enforcement community as a Part-Time Detective for the Lycoming County District Attorney's Office. Also included in my service is 21 years as an Instructor and Director at the Mansfield University Municipal Police Academy. I cite my background to support my following comments and position to cite the need for enhanced training, education, and awareness, as it applies to our Law Enforcement, Public Safety and First Responder, and Criminal Justice agencies on the topic of Combating Human Trafficking.

The Northern Pennsylvania Regional College, NPRC, is the only Regional College in Pennsylvania. NPRC currently encompasses a ten (10) County Academic footprint in the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania. Geographically this footprint is larger than the State of Connecticut, and provides and assists in bringing academic opportunities to over 500,000 rural Pennsylvanians. Regarding NPRC Workforce Development opportunities, of which I am a part, NPRC provides numerous certificate related training and educational opportunities not only within the ten (10) County Academic footprint, but throughout Pennsylvania and beyond our borders. NPRC provides, both Academic and Workforce Development, affordable education to our residents of Northern Pennsylvania. NPRC is proud to offer this programming to our communities through partnerships with businesses, agencies, and organizations based on the needs of the local communities, agencies, and organizations.

Over the past year NPRC has provided me with an opportunity to strengthen a relationship with an organization whose mission, in part, is to fight for those who can't fight for themselves through partnership and mentorship. That organization is Lantern Rescue.

The partnership with Lantern Rescue, which began in December of 2023, has provided the opportunity to develop, certify, offer, and execute various human trafficking training and educational programs throughout Northern and Central Pennsylvania. NPRC, and Lantern Rescue, know that increasing public awareness about the risks and signs of human trafficking is an important step in a larger strategy. This knowledge, and the opportunities it provides, is supported by the recent guide published by the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (PITF) and the Senior Policy Operating Group (SPOG) in 2023.

The awareness, and now certified human trafficking programs, that NPRC and Lantern Rescue collaborate on providing, have been attended by members of Law Enforcement, probation, prosecutors, church leaders and members of various congregations, educators, and Social Workers at no cost. The programs have been provided in various urban and rural locations to offset attendees' time and travel expenses.

Programs provided through the NPRC and Lantern Rescue collaboration have indicated that there is a desire to attend the training on the topic of combating human trafficking. Additional training is needed and sought by our law enforcement and first responder communities in addition to other partners throughout the criminal justice and social services system.

It is also apparent, based on our work to date, that insufficient information and education is being provided to our recruits attending our Municipal and State Police Academies, and that our practitioners attending mandatory continuing education on the topic of combating human trafficking is insufficient. I personally support this position and findings with my background as a prior Director of a Pennsylvania Municipal Police Academy, and my many years of law enforcement combined with annual Mandatory Continuing Education that is required of all Pennsylvania Law Enforcement. An example of this is understanding the legal definition of Human Trafficking to not only include Sexual Exploitation, but also includes in the definition Labor Exploitation and Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM). Another example is the lack of providing sufficient training regarding signs and symptoms that Human Trafficking Victim(s) could potentially display upon encounters with a member of Law Enforcement, which in turn could lead to the Law Enforcement member not recognizing a potential Human Trafficking Victim thus not providing a positive intervention to assist the Victim. I provide these examples not as a negative directed towards the agencies that provide recruit and practitioner related training and education which have addressed to the best of their abilities in providing information on Human Trafficking, but to support that Combatting Human Trafficking is a constant and evolving learning process to combat the changing and unfortunately evolving methods utilized by Traffickers in grooming potential Victims, technologies utilized by Traffickers, etc.

If I may, I would like to provide a positive example of the training and education provided to date. Based on an awareness program provided, and based on at the conclusion of every training program that resources are available to assist agencies and individuals in numerous ways on the issue of combating human trafficking, we received a call for assistance from an individual regarding the disappearance of a family member who suffered from mental health related disabilities. Based on this call, assistance was provided to not only the family, but to Law Enforcement, and the missing family member was located within hours of disappearing based on diligent work provided by Law Enforcement. More information cannot be provided as this time due to the ongoing criminal investigation ongoing into the matter. Still, it is fair to say that the assistance provided positively impacted this case. In addition to the information about the awareness, the family had access to supportive resources and Lantern Rescue personnel, who provided valuable insight to the law enforcement personnel involved in this case.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the House Republican Policy Committee, with assistance provided by Korrin Moon, Founder of Lantern Rescue and Practicing Prosecutor for the Lycoming County District Attorney's Office, review current State Criminal Statutes that apply currently to Combating Human Trafficking. Based upon this review, appropriate enhancements to current Criminal Statutes, or new Criminal Statutes, be addressed legislatively.
- 2) That appropriate Legislative direction be provided, such as our Act 120 Municipal Police Academies and Municipal Police Officer & Education Commission, mandating that all Pennsylvania Police recruits and practitioners receive an appropriate eight (8) hour initial certified training course in Combating Human Trafficking and that all Pennsylvania Police Practitioners receive at minimum of two (2) hours annual Mandatory In-Service training on Combating Human Trafficking.
- 3) That appropriate State funding be provided to educational entities that offer certified training and education regarding Combatting Human Trafficking, and that the training be offered free of charge to Law Enforcement agencies, Public Safety and First Responder Agencies, County Emergency Management Agencies, Educators, Social and Public Service Agencies, etc.
- 4) That appropriate State funding be provided to educational entities that offer certified training and education regarding Combating Human Trafficking, and that the training be offered free of charge to staff of a location that might encounter Human Trafficking such as hotels, restaurants, and grocery stores.
- 5) That appropriate State funding be provided to promote awareness materials to our Public such as billboards, television advertisements, pamphlets, and signage, indicating signs and symptoms of Human Trafficking Victims, and the steps to report observations of potential Human Trafficking occurring.

I appreciate, and thank each member of today's committee, for hearing all testimony offered today, and for the committee's interest in finding solutions to combat Human Trafficking here in Pennsylvania. In turn, these solutions will have a positive impact on combating domestic and international human trafficking