



Dear Hospital and Health System Leaders,

Over the past few years, startling facts have come to light about human trafficking within the United States, across the Midwest and most concerning, throughout Kansas. According to a 2014 study by the Global Centurion Foundation, 88% of sex trafficking victims said they had contact with a medical provider while they were being trafficked. Education and awareness are part of the effort to increase identification of victims and provide appropriate interventions. Healthcare providers are in a key position to identify and assist victims by providing them with the support and services they need to leave their situation and connect them with the necessary supports and services they need as they start on their road to recovery.

Labor and sex trafficking are not isolated to any one part of the state and occur in both rural and urban areas. Although women and children have a greater risk of being victimized, there is no one specific demographic at risk. Trafficked individuals come from a variety of backgrounds without regard to gender, age, race, sexual orientation or social-economic class. Survivors of human trafficking experience trauma that can often lead to long-term physical and mental health issues. Due to fear or intimidation, many are reluctant to ask for help or even accept it. This is why it is important for everyone who comes in contact with patients to be mindful of the signs that someone is being victimized and have the appropriate tools for meaningful interventions.

The Kansas Hospital Association and the Kansas Attorney General's Office are partnering on this issue to address the problem head on by developing this Toolkit. Our goal is to provide practical and effective tools to help all healthcare providers identify, interact and intervene in situations where human trafficking is suspected.

We hope that you will share this Toolkit with all staff to build awareness of the warning signs of labor and sex trafficking. This Toolkit provides screening methodology, patient care tips, examples of available awareness materials, patient resources and models for hospitals to develop policies and procedures. We encourage all hospitals to incorporate these tools in their facilities.

Healthcare providers play a vital role in shaping the health and wellness of all Kansans. With proactive policies, comprehensive staff trainings and partnerships with law enforcement and other community service agencies, we will stem the tide of human trafficking and help victims become survivors.

Please join us in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Derek Schmidt".

Derek Schmidt  
Kansas Attorney General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Austin".

Chad Austin  
KHA President and CEO