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Mackenzie Kelly
Council Member, District 6
City Hall
301 W 2nd St, Suite 2117
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Council

As a member of the Travis County Child Protection Team, and as the only non-profit involved in the investigation and prosecution of crimes against children in Travis County, the Center for Child Protection supports Council Member Kelly's resolution to expand investigative, educational and safety measures of victims of human trafficking.

The Child Protection Team is a true public-private partnership that brings law enforcement including the Austin Police Department, Child Protective Services, medical serves and prosecution together with the Center for Child Protection, a child advocacy center, to provide a trauma informed, child centered intervention.

The Center for Child Protection provides a core investigative service, the forensic interview, on-site medical exams, and therapeutic support for crimes against children including sexual assault and human trafficking.

The cost to young victims trafficked for profit is immeasurably high. Childhoods are lost and lives are destroyed. Rebuilding trust with dignity is a goal for all children seen at the Center. Our vision, however, is to see fewer children because efforts in prevention, through increased awareness, keep our children safe. The Center's outreach and education efforts seek to make our community aware of the magnitude of the problem, the risks in our own community and steps that everyone can take to protect children from harm.

We support the efforts of Council Member Kelly for putting forth a resolution to raise awareness and to take concrete actions towards safety and prevention. April is child abuse prevention month, but we see prevention as our goal every month. We encourage the community to see both child and adult victims of this terrible crime. We encourage our community to educate themselves and get involved. See [#protectaustinkids](#) for more information.

Sincerely,

Amanda Van Hoozer
Chief Program Officer

Michael Torres, Chief Executive Officer



A Public/Private Partnership with the Austin Police Department, Austin Independent School District Police Department, Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Travis County District Attorney's Office, Travis County Sheriff's Office, and the police departments of Bee Cave, Briarcliff, Cedar Park, Elgin, Jonestown, Lago Vista, Lakeway, Leander, Manor, Mustang Ridge, Pflugerville, Pflugerville Independent School District, Rollingwood, Sunset Valley, University of Texas at Austin and Westlake Hills.

