

(links would not be allowed to be sent, plain text mode sorry for the inconvenience)

Senators & House Representatives,

An opinion of a 30 year experienced advocate for kids. Please take the time to read this.

I am a professional in the Cedar Rapids community and am a mandatory reporter BOEE (Iowa Board of Educational Examiners) and youth athletics Safesport Certified advocate. I have been a person who has been combating human and sex trafficking and pedophilia in sports for decades. I also am a member of Paul Pates IBAT (Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking) program to which in a meeting, with citizens, MANY profusely expressed we do NOT have systems in place in Iowa to protect advocates and/or victims and that the corruption is in ALL LAYERS throughout our state.

With my background and experience, I would like to respectfully ask that you take into consideration how the proposed increase in the number of brick-and-mortar casinos, like the one proposed in Cedar Rapids Iowa would negatively impact human trafficking statewide.

Human trafficking, frequently referred to as a ghost crime, occurs in plain sight within casino and resort properties, but it remains largely unseen because the indicators of this crime are invisible to most.

See <https://www.asisonline.org/security-management-magazine/latest-news/online-exclusives/2022/human-trafficking-in-casinos-the-ghost-crime-operating-in-plain-sight/>.

Human trafficking thrives around the world despite growing awareness of the problem. Globally, an estimated 40.3 million people were victims of human trafficking according to statistics compiled by the Global Slavery Index. In the United States, It is estimated that between 15,000 to 50,000 women and children are forced into sexual slavery in the United States every year, and the total number varies wildly as it is very difficult to research.

What about Iowa? “Shared Hope International is a faith-based nonprofit that aims to eradicate sex trafficking. They’re issuing rankings for every state on how they’re trying to reduce sex trafficking of minors. Iowa received an “F” “ (Cedar Rapids, Gazette) in 2023 and that is a cold hard fact and we should be ashamed.

In Iowa , according to the Global Slavery Index, there is an estimate of more than 6,000 human trafficking victims every day in Iowa, including forced labor and sex trafficking. 783 cases of human trafficking. 1,771 victims were identified by outside of the State programs. See <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/statistics/iowa>. I have been told REPEATEDLY, that Cedar Rapids is the number one city in Iowa for Human Trafficking and child pornography production organized crime. You need only to look at my case to see that is true.

I ask you, where is our Sex Trafficking Task force for Iowa for Victims and Advocates? A task force that is neutral to all parties and with integrity that can NOT be bought off, along with legislative protections for whistleblowers and advocates to fight crime and corruption? I technically am a whistleblower in Safesport and BOEE and USA Volleyball, yet the network is so deep in our state, these programs actually hide and promote pedophiles.

After speaking with MANY departments over the last 8 years, it seems all departments in Iowa pass the buck and Victims and Advocates continue to suffer. The problem is so BIG no one wants to actually do anything about it, but yet MANY, have expressed they know its an issue but have no idea how to solve it. It seems a small few are actually willing to stick their heads up for change and truly understand that the bad actors are usually well liked and well funded with hidden secrets.

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), human trafficking is estimated to be a \$150 billion industry each year. In Las Vegas, the problem centers around casinos and hotels. Caesars Entertainment signed on to a partnership with two global organizations that lead the fight to prevent and eradicate the issue.

Research indicates that when men gather to spend money on leisure, including paid sex, it necessitates filling that demand. In Hawaii, when a proposal was brought forward to build a casino in 2021, a state agency that works toward equality for women and girls issued a blistering report outlining the ills associated with casinos, particularly as they relate to the sex trade. That report outlined that, “prostitution and casinos go hand-in-hand because casinos draw a large presence of men with money to spend on leisure and relaxation, including paid sex, which impacts the number of prostituted people required to be brought in to meet the demand.” The nine-page report concluded that men who gamble are more prone to purchasing sex, and that a casino would likely increase domestic violence toward women, prostitution and sex trafficking. See

[https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/1.26.21-r2.1.21-GIS-FINAL\\_DHHL-Casino.pdf](https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/1.26.21-r2.1.21-GIS-FINAL_DHHL-Casino.pdf).

In addition, the report pointed to national research that suggests links between casino gambling and sex buying.

A 2010 study funded by the U.S. Department of Justice and UNLV found a positive correlation between casinos and paid sex. In fact, the report states that, “casino patrons were 17% more likely than the average survey respondent to have paid for sex in the past year.” See

<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/grants/249956.pdf>;

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/hscw/hscsw-gambling-report/>; and

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2021/02/02hawaii-news/casino-could-increase-sex-trade-report-warns/>.

Those classified as problem gamblers were, on average, 84% more likely to use hard drugs; 31% more likely to binge drink; and 260% more likely to hire a prostitute. See

<https://journalistsresource.org/home/young-gamblin-drinking-drugs-prostitution>.

The American Gaming Association admits that gaming operations have been used to facilitate human trafficking. In particular, physical casinos or resorts can be locations for trafficking to take place, while casinos and online gaming apps can be used to launder money related to trafficking operations. The AGA asserts that casinos and hotels are optimal environments for human trafficking, especially if the property allows for cash payments, does not require ID checks or similarly lacks security procedures. The association admits that online gaming apps with chat functions may also be used by traffickers to recruit victims.

In addition, major events, such as championship games, music festivals, trade shows or conferences have resulted in increases in sex trafficking.

The AGA claims that casinos are exploited by traffickers to launder their proceeds through the exchange of money for chips, and the use of online accounts to receive payment for commercial sex. See

<https://americangaming.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/AGA-Preventing-and-Combating-Human-Trafficking-in-the-Gaming-Industry.pdf>.

It is clear that human and sex trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar industry and that it is widely understood by advocacy groups, the American Bar Association, the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Justice, a multitude of studies and even the

gambling industry itself that casinos in the State of Iowa WILL increase the number of human trafficking victims.

As a victim and advocate myself, that is being targeted professionally, legally and physically for sticking up for women and girls exposing Sex Trafficking and pedophiles within the sports and academic network targeting of children...If the state of Iowa can't protect me, and the kids in my community now then how can we keep control over more casinos and ways to launder money? There are ZERO services or departments that have headed my cries for help and even after they admit I am a target of organized crime they do nothing... I deeply urge you to re-consider the expansion of casino gambling in the State of Iowa and ask that you take the crimes of human trafficking and organized crime that supports it seriously.

Law firms, County Courts, State Representatives, Law Enforcement Agencies, Attorneys, Developers, Council Councils, Economic Alliances, City Support Systems, Department of Corrections, Mayors and Realtors ARE Involved. I know in Cedar Rapids MANY have personally targeted me. A simple thing to understand is, my one civil court case, fighting for the business I built, has been in Linn County Courts for over 8 years.

Because I sued someone for MY BUSINESS, I BUILT that is connected, they have destroyed me for YEARS. A local Linn County Judge, Appointed by the governor ignored testimony that the FBI should be called against the opposing side and FAA and EPA violations in the second sports facility I built. Its documented that I was setup in the second business I built. (The developer and lead attorney on case one from my first facility that is still being litigated, grew up together) and all my cases are connected.

My youth program for girls has been targeted and some people believe I was targeted to be killed in a 2019 car accident. I have received death threats etc and the AG's Office and the Governors office personnel repeatedly state, "Conflicts of interest" and pass the buck onto other departments to which they clearly respond they can not help me. This tangled web and run around is what all victims and advocates in our state deal with. This was expressed at the IBAT meeting with no answers. What happens when law firms who target you for being an advocate is louder then your voice as a victim, and people believe. them over you?

MANY have made reports as well even to our local city authorities and local FBI agent who have done NOTHING yet it all points in the same direction at the same people. Racketeering, collusion, pay to play, back door deals, FEMA misappropriation and other tax payer funds, money laundering and trafficking. This problem will be MADE far worse with a CASINO.

To put it into perspective... A local convicted sex offender, that is also permanently banned in Safesport and USA Hockey from entering the arena, is allowed used of a tax payer IMON Ice Arena by ALL the city officials and law enforcement. I spoke publicly at the Cedar Rapids City Council exposing this issue of continued endangerment of minors. Heather Adams is being allowed access to her target victims (High school aged hockey boys) being allowed by her elite friends. Adams is a friend of Cedar Rapids Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell, CRPD and others. Adams is still there to this day and I also exposed that she posted a video on her Facebook page publicly, with a minor little girl, not related to her, inviting City Elite friends to her home for "Naked Gardening" while she had the young child serve her a beer. Nothing was done and I was retaliated against further.

City Council Man Scott Olson works for Skogman Realty and is on record "GOOD FRINDS" with my old business partner who has stolen my sports facility I built. Not one Realtor will sale me a building and many small business owners who are not in the game are SHUT out in she CR Community. I also have suffered Code 720.6 Malicious prosecution fromthe law firm that has targeted me for 8 years trying to destroy my reputation and businesses and its not because I coach volleyball.

In 6 months we had a 25 year sheriff, a news anchor, a law firm executive, a athletic photographer and trainer go down for producing Child Pornography in Cedar Rapids. This shows a NETWORK and is the tip of the iceberg. Why would the city elite be attacking a volleyball coach?

I have linked links to my speeches below. Please understand, I started to speak after years of being told by investigators and government officials that I was a target of organized crime... yet crickets. What does that tell you? This is my hometown and I personally heard screams of a victim in broad daylight on 33rd Ave in Cedar Rapids last month and yet nothing is done. Reports are filed to all local law enforcement and nothing is done.

I urge you as a state representative to FIGHT Human Trafficking and FIGHT Corruption in our state including organized crime, Anti-SLAPPSUITS (as I am also currently a victim of this) for speaking out at city council. Passing laws that actually make Iowa citizens protected against the corrupt and powerful.

I urge you to say WE can do better and NO to facilities like a another casino, especially when its within a city with a proven record of unethical conduct and immoral criminal acts upon its very own citizens rights, especially women and children.

We also have major issues STATEWIDE that need to be investigated as well of facilities and so called victim programs that PRETEND to help victims of abuse and trafficking. It is well documented with evidence, that they do NOT and in fact participate in these crimes. We need 3rd party investigations especially on the ones that house children. WE in Iowa are FAILING.

Please help Change Iowa and please help us save victims and SAVE CR from corruption and organized crime.

Any excuse of “conflict of interest” from anyone in our government from doing what is right for its citizens, especially children is disgusting and is criminal. PLEASE be apart of the change.

Sincerely, a volleyball coach fighting for good,

Melissa Duffield

Precision One Volleyball

99 We Stand (New entity being started) by MANY concerned citizens in CR

319-310-5104

<https://www.tiktok.com/@coachmofrog/video/7384614241224920350> - Viral TikTok Speech to CR council

<https://www.tiktok.com/@coachmofrog/video/7281686700785405226>  
Presentation of Evidence of Heather Adams to Council

<https://www.tiktok.com/@coachmofrog/video/7395049002120547615>  
40 Voices from CR

ALSO AN ARTICLE that the FBI is not even protecting Children and I can tell you our local one FBI agent is not doing his job as many reports have been made on city ELITE and he has done nothing.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/aug/29/fbi-suspected-child-sexual-abuse-oig-report>

ARTICLE SHOWING I AM CO-OWNER yet I haven't had my day in court to set foot on what I built in 8 years and Mal-practice was intentionally committed and depositions show that attorney said he did it because he "didn't want to end up on the wrong side of certain people" This facility is now called GameON/SandLot and is getting 3.8 million a year from Scott Olson City of Cedar Rapids

<https://www.thegazette.com/recreation/melissa-duffield-finds-her-oasis-in-cedar-rapids/>

Cedar Rapids has many violations of citizens rights, especially rights of WOMEN and CHILDREN, please help clean up CR and cities like it in our state.

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For the Love of the Game,

Coach Mo

Melissa Duffield  
Founder & Director

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