

THE EPSTEIN ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HB 5783 - Slaughter

As the Epstein files continue to emerge and states increasingly recognize the link between sex-buying and the demand that fuels sex trafficking, lawmakers across the country are advancing legislation to curb patronizing, with varying approaches to accountability.

HB 5783 requires any person arrested for patronizing a person engaged in the sex trade to participate in the Epstein Accountability Program and pay a fee on a sliding scale based on the defendant's annual income. Fees assessed will be deposited into a victim compensation fund.

- HB 5783 taps into a moment of national reckoning over sexual exploitation and abuses of power laid bare by the Epstein case and the growing public demand for accountability for privileged men who take advantage of vulnerable women and girls.
- HB 5783 is crucial in that it provides not just buyer accountability, but a sustainable, justice-centered mechanism to fund victim services by shifting the burden away from survivors and onto those who fuel harm against marginalized communities

Illinois can be the next state to step up for survivors, curb demand, and ultimately help to prevent trafficking

- Largely in response to the Epstein case, **more than 13 states have passed laws increasing accountability for sex buyers** in ways that that fund survivor services and/or require buyer diversion programs
- More than a dozen states have bills pending this session that seek to enact these measures

