Safety Rest Area Anti-Human Trafficking Informational Poster Report

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As required in ESSB 5689, Section 216 (16) (f), this is a report to the transporation commities of the Washington State Legislature regarding the installation of anti-human trafficking information posters at safety rest areas.

Background

In 2013, WSDOT worked with human trafficking victim advocacy groups to install informational, posters in rest area buildings on Interstate routes.

In 2022, WSDOT worked with human trafficking victim advocacy groups to update the message on the posters and install them in all highway rest areas, including all bathroom stalls. Additionally, staff has begun exploring potential training options to make key field staff aware of the signs of human trafficking and what to do if they see it happening.

Report

WSDOT worked with members from the *Washington State Task Force against the Trafficking of Persons* and *Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking* to develop a message encouraging potential trafficking victims to reach the national human trafficking hotline:

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Can't leave your job? Does someone owe you money? Is someone pressuring you to work? Is someone pressuring you to have sex for money or other basic needs?

This message was translated into seven languages and printed on vandal resistant material.

As of December 18, 2022, the WSDOT traveler information vendor installed 220 posters in all rest area bathroom stalls in Western Washington. 219 posters will be installed in all rest area stalls in Eastern Washington by January 30, 2023.

