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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: August 29, 2014

SUBJECT: **House Bill 7141 Human Trafficking**

During the 2014 legislative session, legislation was passed regarding human trafficking to further protect our youth. House Bill 7141 requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) as the lead agency along with other agencies, including the Department of Education (FDOE), to employ screening and assessment instruments for sexually exploited children. It provides criteria for placement of sexually exploited children in safe houses and safe foster homes. The bill directs DCF, Department of Juvenile Justice and other specified agencies to participate in coalitions and task forces to coordinate local responses and creates a Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. The bill specifies that membership shall consist of the commissioner of education, or a designee, and other state agency leaders.

Although our agency has been active in human trafficking prevention, effective July 1, 2014, FDOE will formally participate on the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. FDOE and schools districts will assist in all educational aspects outlined in the bill. School district staff will participate in regular multidisciplinary sexually exploited children trainings. The state and local education agencies will ensure the exploited children from the safe foster homes have access to all academic benefits. The student's individual education needs will be tailored, including remedial education if necessary.

FDOE Healthy Schools created a Child Human Trafficking document, which provides resources to identify human trafficking and raise awareness within the community. This document helps educators, school staff, community-based professionals and parents recognize potential human trafficking and helps victims access specialized services. The Child Human Trafficking document is accessible at http://www.fldoe.org/bii/CSHP/Education/HIV_STD/pdf/HumanTraffickingToolkit.pdf or by visiting the FDOE Comprehensive Health Education webpage.

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