

**Legislature - First Session - 2019**

**Introducer's Statement of Intent**

**LB518**

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**Chairperson: Senator Sara Howard**

**Committee: Health and Human Services**

**Date of Hearing: March 06, 2019**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 518, the Support for Trafficking Survivors Act, is to prevent, identify, and respond to sex trafficking and to support the safety, well-being, and economic stability of victims.

LB 518 creates the Support for Trafficking Survivors Advisory Board to develop, oversee, and coordinate the statewide, multi-agency trafficking response, primarily through the creation of a state plan. Membership includes trafficking survivors, service providers, and representatives of law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

LB 518 establishes the Office of Support for Trafficking Survivors within the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate and implement the state plan developed by the Advisory Board.

LB 518 creates the Support for Trafficking Survivors Fund to fund competitive grants for services for trafficking victims across the state.

Finally, LB 518 creates a program to reimburse state and local law enforcement for costs associated with victim-centered, trauma-informed sex trafficking investigations, operations, or prosecutions.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Senator Lou Ann Linehan