

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, COMMENDING SENATOR MARCO RUBIO AND SENATOR BILL NELSON FOR JOINING WITH MORE THAN 60 U.S. SENATORS AS A CO-SPONSOR OF U.S. SENATE BILL 1693, KNOWN AS THE "STOP ENABLING SEX TRAFFICKING BILL" (SESTA); URGING SENATOR MITCH McCONNELL TO BRING S. 1693 TO A SENATE VOTE; URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PASS SIMILAR LEGISLATION; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO PROVIDE THIS RESOLUTION TO SPECIFIC MEMBERS OF CONGRESS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, a two-year investigation led by Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and others demonstrated that certain on-line sites, and in particular a site named Backpage.com, have for years facilitated the on-line "sale" of minors for commercial sex, and they have been able to do so with legal immunity because of a provision in the Communications Decency Act that was only intended to provide freedom for Internet posters but has been used by Backpage and others to escape civil and criminal liability for their actions; and

WHEREAS, Backpage has been used to "market" four minor girls from the Florida Keys (two in two separate incidents, with one girl as young as fourteen), who were brought to the Florida "mainland" for sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, experts believe that Backpage alone is responsible for three quarters of the cases of child sex trafficking in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Sen. Rob Portman has attracted 66 Senate co-sponsors (from both parties) for Senate Bill 1693 (the Stop Enabling Sex Trafficking bill, often referred to as SESTA) that could prevent online trafficking of young people for sex, and our Senator Marco Rubio, along with Senator Bill Nelson, are among the co-sponsors; and

WHEREAS, although several anti-trafficking groups have expressed concern about the related House Bill, H.R. 1865, sponsored by Representative Ann Wagner, the bill has 172 sponsors, including Representative Carlos Curbelo; and

WHEREAS, the SESTA bill, S. 1693, sits idly waiting to be put to a vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That the Key West City Commission commends Senator Rubio and Senator Nelson for choosing to join as sponsors of the Portman SESTA Bill.

Section 2: That the Key West City Commission urges Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell to bring SESTA to a vote by the Senate as soon as possible.

Section 3: That U.S. House of Representatives is urged to a pass a bill in close conformance with Senate Bill 1693.

Section 4: That the City Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Bill Nelson, Senator Rob Portman, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and Congressman Carlos Curbelo.

Section 5: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the Presiding Officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this
_____ day of _____, 2018.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission
on _____ day of _____, 2018.

Filed with the Clerk on _____, 2018.

Mayor Craig Cates	_____
Vice Mayor Clayton Lopez	_____
Commissioner Sam Kaufman	_____
Commissioner Richard Payne	_____
Commissioner Margaret Romero	_____
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	_____
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	_____

CRAIG CATES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK