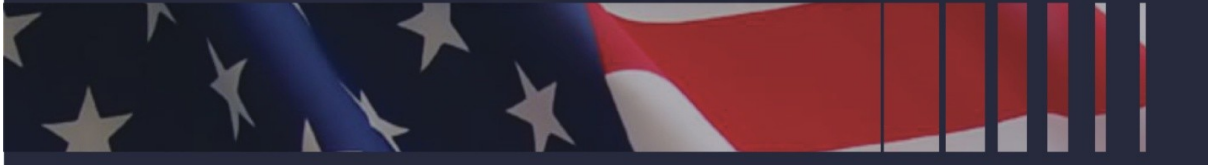


# PROTECTED INNOCENCE INITIATIVE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.



## Massachusetts State Facts

### Criminalization of DMST

1. Massachusetts has not enacted a sex trafficking law.
2. 300 child sex trafficking victims were identified in Suffolk County (Boston) alone according to a database launched by the Suffolk County District Attorney's office.<sup>1</sup>
3. In July 2011, Dr. Melissa Farley conducted a study of 101 men in the Boston area who purchased sex —only 25 percent reported purchasing sex in another state, demonstrating the local nature of sex trafficking and the need for strong state laws to deter the crime.<sup>2</sup>

### Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

4. Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley was one of 51 Attorneys General who signed a letter to Backpage.com calling on the company to disclose its efforts to identify and delete advertisements that facilitate sex trafficking, specifically of minors.<sup>3</sup>
5. Weak laws and penalties for those who buy sex with minors do not deter demand and leave young minors unprotected. Engaging in sexual conduct for a fee with a person 14 or older is a mere misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of 1 year in prison and possible \$500 fine.
6. Buyers convicted of enticement of children under 16 to engage in sexual conduct for a fee and possessing child pornography are required to register as sex offenders.

### Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

7. Convictions for commercial sex crimes against children in Massachusetts are not expressly grounds for terminating a trafficker's parental rights, leaving children of traffickers at potential risk through continued parental control.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/r/25642550/detail.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/c-prostitution-men-who-buy-sex.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/cases/backpage/backpageletter.pdf>