



State of Indiana

Senate

Senator Dennis Kruse
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Committees:
Education & Career Development, Chair
Family & Child Services
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Rules & Legislative Procedure

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To Whom It May Concern:

I recognize the urgent need to stamp out human trafficking in the USA and elsewhere. Additionally, I am concerned that current methods of identifying and tracking trafficking victims and perpetrators are archaic; very little software is used to combat the increasing use of technology by perpetrators. This is largely because until the emergence of Bashpole idTraffickers software, it was not feasible to process the immense quantity and wide distribution of online images of trafficked persons. It was also previously infeasible to monitor all video feeds.

To my knowledge, Bashpole is the first to apply advanced facial recognition and other biometrics to the fight against Trafficking at the scale of Internet. Based on what I've seen, Bashpole's idTraffickers software seems to be an effective use of technology in fighting Trafficking. We are very impressed with Bashpole's demonstrated capability to automate the analysis of large data sets. Most impressive is their demo that compares several thousand images of missing children from the NCMEC (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children) database against hundreds of thousands of photos in 'escort' advertisements. This innovative, automated capability yields timely, "actionable intelligence" that is virtually impossible to find by currently employed methods. Even in demonstration runs, Bashpole's idTraffickers software produced a number of likely matches that experienced law enforcement personnel have agreed are actionable and to be followed up.

In my opinion, Bashpole has uncovered a significant gap in existing legislation. Specifically, current legislation focuses on treatment of victims and prosecution of perpetrators. It doesn't adequately address the threshold issue: proactive identification of victims and perpetrators. I am convinced of the urgency of supporting Bashpole's ongoing development efforts in this



important field. This kind of automated, computerized tool is what's needed to increase the quality and quantity of actionable anti-trafficking intelligence without a corresponding increase in personnel.

To this end, I encourage Federal agencies and State agencies to become familiar with, evaluate, and if appropriate, adopt Bashpole's idTraffickers software. I want these agencies to incorporate this type of innovative technology into their anti-trafficking activities. It promises to be a great boost to their efforts and a means to "level the playing field" in the fight against perpetrators. In the case of State agencies, for example, Bashpole's idTraffickers software can be an important tool to help meet their legal obligations. For example, to improve ways in which they "identify and document children whom they have reasonable cause to believe are victims ... of sex trafficking or a severe form of trafficking in persons..." as required by Public Law 113-183.

In closing, I add that I have instructed my Office to follow through with Bashpole Software, Inc. with a view to monitoring the Company's progress in further developing and implementing this impressive technology.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Kruse".

Senator Dennis Kruse