

# Liz Terwilliger for Congress

## Because we need Representatives, not Politicians.



August 16, 2020



### Take Action on Child Abuse and Human Trafficking

I have seen, in recent weeks, posts on social media for politicians proclaiming themselves to be anti-pedophilia and anti-child trafficking. Well, of course! It should go without saying that one is against such heinous crimes. And yet people feel the need to make a public proclamation.

What such proclamations lack is a call to action. I feel that we, as a community, need to take action to protect our children and other vulnerable people among us. We need to know what to look for and where to turn for support. We also need to understand the judicial process and that it involves balancing the rights of both the victims and the accused.

As a mandated reporter working directly with families, I have seen this from both sides. I have been frustrated by good people wrongfully accused by vengeful parties and on the other hand by apparent lack of action by agencies to protect vulnerable children. Despite my personal frustrations, I understand that it is a difficult job. And much as I don't like it, it is a balance; a balance between the rights of the victim and the rights of the alleged perpetrator. We need strong laws to protect our children and other vulnerable individuals from abuse. We need a fair judicial system so that we can be confident that those convicted are in fact guilty. We need robust social service programs to provide victims with much needed support. We need to continually take action to move towards a system more just for all parties involved.

What actions can we take?

There are organizations, both governmental and community based, working to support and protect the vulnerable among us every day, with good people doing their best to take on these challenges. We can support them. We can support organizations like the Children's House in Towanda and the Child Advocacy Center of NEPA in Scranton where they offer, at no cost to the child or family, a child friendly setting for forensic interviews, medical exams by specially trained professionals, trauma therapy and family advocacy. We can support organizations like Transitions in Lewisburg and the YWCA in Williamsport that provide safety, advocacy and therapeutic support.

And we can learn.

We can learn the signs of abuse and the signs of human trafficking so that you know when to make a report. We can learn who to call.

Visit [keepkidssafe.pa.gov](http://keepkidssafe.pa.gov) to learn more!

For even more ideas on ways to take action,

visit [www.state.gov/20-ways-you-can-help-fight-human-trafficking](http://www.state.gov/20-ways-you-can-help-fight-human-trafficking).

-Liz Terwilliger

### Upcoming Events

**Aug 24<sup>th</sup>: Save Our Children Rally**  
10am-1pm

Bradford County Courthouse, Towanda, PA  
[www.facebook.com/events/831597353912182/](http://www.facebook.com/events/831597353912182/)

**Aug 29<sup>th</sup>: #SaveTheChildren Protest**  
12pm-3pm

Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA  
[www.facebook.com/events/329370758237435/](http://www.facebook.com/events/329370758237435/)

**Aug 30<sup>th</sup>: Paddlepalooza**

Kayak for Kids 8:30a-1:30p  
Riverfront Park, Towanda, PA

[www.facebook.com/events/1391902644353972/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1391902644353972/)

**Aug 30<sup>th</sup>: Community Forum on  
Child Abuse & Human Trafficking**

11am-2pm

Under Our Tent

At the East Side Riverfront Park  
Towanda, PA

Hosted by Liz Terwilliger for Congress

For more info visit:

<https://mailchi.mp/3e4775815942/humantrafficking>

### Share Your Thoughts

We need to engage more in conversations about complex issues. We need to listen to more people and hear their perspectives and experiences. We need to plan together to move forward.

If there's an issue that moves you. If you want to find out more about our Issues Team, contact us!

Visit our Issues page to share your thoughts on our Issues of Concern survey.

<http://lizterwilligerforcongress.org/issues.htm>



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