



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DOUGLAS COUNTY
Women Building Better Communities®

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The Junior Leagues of Georgia Successfully Advocate for Human Trafficking Bill

Members of the State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) of the Junior Leagues of Georgia along with the Junior League of Atlanta successfully advocated for the passage of House Bill (HB) 200 which strengthens the law regarding human trafficking in the state of Georgia. The bill signing was held on May 3, 2011 at My Sister's House, an affiliate of the Atlanta Union Mission, with approximately 100 people in attendance, including members of the State Public Affairs Committee representing all the Junior Leagues of Georgia.

The Junior Leagues of Georgia actively supported the bill on human trafficking, which included testimony to the House subcommittee considering the bill from Tippi Burch, 2010/2011 Chair of SPAC and Junior League of Atlanta member. HB 200 is designed to strengthen the law regarding human trafficking in Georgia by providing law enforcement funds for training; recognizing that the victims of human trafficking should be treated as victims rather than prosecuted as criminals; and designating the Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Board to offer compensation to the victims.

The Junior Leagues of Georgia SPAC acknowledges the signing of HB 200 as a step forward in battling human trafficking in Georgia, and notes the importance of changing the designation of victims and treatment of victims who have been trafficked for sexual purposes - many of them under-aged girls. It is the mission of the Junior Leagues of Georgia SPAC to continue to work on this important issue to help make Georgia a safer place for women, children and families. The Junior Leagues of Georgia SPAC worked along with the Junior League of Atlanta and a number of other organizations to support HB 200.

The Junior Leagues of Georgia State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) includes twelve Junior League organizations in the State of Georgia whose members total approx. 10,000 women. The Junior Leagues of Georgia SPAC members collaborate on efforts in advocacy, legislative shareholder groups, lobbying, and training for community partners and members. Our members attend house and senate committee meetings and testify on issues before members of the Georgia General Assembly.

To learn more about The Junior Leagues of Georgia SPAC and the campaign against Human Trafficking, visit our website at www.gajlspac.org or the Junior League of Atlanta's website at www.jlatlanta.org.

The Junior League of Douglas County is a local organization that supports children and senior adults through community outreach programs and offers personal and professional leadership training to its members. The Junior League of Douglas County (JLDC) was established in 1987 and is part of the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. For more information, contact us by email jldc_membership@yahoo.com or visit www.jldouglascounty.org

Photos courtesy of Governor Nathan Deal's Photographer

Photo 1: Wadette Bradford, Junior League of Atlanta and Anne Marie Colombo, Junior League of Douglas County with Governor Nathan Deal at the Bill Signing Ceremony for HB 200 which strengthens the human trafficking laws in Georgia

Photo 2: Governor Nathan Deal signs HB 200 into law