

Arguments “For” Proposition 313

I am a wife, mother, and protector of our children. The passage of Proposition 313 will send a powerful message: Arizona's children are not for sale. If you buy or sell our minor children, you are going to prison for natural life. It is time to hold criminals accountable for trafficking minor children.

Every two minutes a child from the United States is trafficked for the sole purpose of human exploitation. According to the Arizona Attorney General's Office, the average age of entry into sex trafficking is 14 years old. Traffickers steal our children as young as five years old to sell them into a life of misery and despair. It doesn't matter if they are boys or girls. These adolescents lose everything to be thrown into the sex trade business. They are removed from their families and often sold over and over and forced to perform unspeakable acts. With the rise of social media and internet capabilities, these same innocent children often have an internet presence against their own will where predators share and sell their images and videos repeatedly across the Dark Web.

Child sex trafficking is a form of child abuse that occurs when a child under 18 is advertised, solicited, or exploited through a commercial sex act.

Child sex trafficking occurs among all socioeconomic classes, races, ethnicities, and gender identities in urban, suburban, tribal, and rural communities.

Child sex trafficking is modern day slavery.

Your YES vote on Proposition 313 will protect children from sexual exploitation. Our neighbor's daughter or son needs your YES vote for protection.

Please join me in saving our most precious resource by being on the side of saving children. STOP CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING. Vote Yes on Proposition 313.

State Senator Shawwna Bolick

Shawwna Bolick, State Senator, Arizona State Senate, Phoenix

Vote yes on Proposition 313 to harshly deal with sex traffickers. Society, as represented by the legal system, should not tolerate the degradation and destruction of its most vulnerable members, children. Therefore, we should reserve our harshest punishments for those who commit the worst crimes against children. Sex trafficked children suffer repercussions throughout their lives yet currently an offender could be sentenced to prison for a relatively short amount of time.

Allowing sex traffickers to walk amongst us sends an unacceptable message to the physically and psychologically tortured trafficked children: we as a society are unwilling to properly respond to evil deeds. The suffering of trafficked children demands that the perpetrators of such heinous crimes should never experience freedom again. Vote yes on Proposition 313.

Brook Doty, Chairman, LD17 Republicans, Tucson

I am a wife, mother, and protector of our children. The passage of Proposition 313 will send a powerful message: Arizona's children are not for sale. If you buy or sell our minor children, you are going to prison for natural life. It is time to hold criminals accountable for trafficking minor children.

Every two minutes, a child from the United States is trafficked for the sole purpose of human exploitation. According to the Arizona Attorney General's Office, the average age of entry into sex trafficking is fourteen years old. Traffickers steal our children as young as five years old to sell them into a life of misery and despair. It doesn't matter if they are boys or girls. These adolescents lose everything to be thrown into the sex trade business. They are removed from their families and often sold over and over and forced to perform unspeakable acts. With the rise of social media and internet capabilities, these same innocent children often have an internet presence against their own will, where predators share and sell their images and videos repeatedly across the Dark Web.

Child sex trafficking is a form of child abuse that occurs when a child under 18 is advertised, solicited, or exploited through a commercial sex act.

Child sex trafficking occurs among all socioeconomic classes, races, ethnicities, and gender identities in urban, suburban, tribal, and rural communities.

Child sex trafficking is modern-day slavery.

Your YES vote on Proposition 313 will protect children from sexual exploitation. Our neighbor's daughter or son needs your YES vote for protection.

Please join me in saving our most precious resource by being on the side of saving children. STOP CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING. Vote Yes on Proposition 313.

Shawna Bolick, State Senator, Phoenix

Frequently, people think that child sex trafficking is something that happens “over there.” However, it occurs here at home, in every Arizona community. Since it is a dark topic, our natural tendency may be to try to ignore the issue. But we cannot. Our children deserve better! Saying “Yes on Prop. 313” is a great step toward protecting our children and sending a clear message to traffickers that they are NOT welcome in Arizona.

Jim Miller, Board Chair, Cece’s Hope Center, Chandler

A yes vote on Prop 313 means you are willing to protect our kids and give our law enforcement the tools needed to hold sex traffickers accountable for their actions. Help us to send a strong message to those who wish to exploit the most vulnerable populations that our children are not for sale.

Mark Lamb, Pinal County Sheriff, San Tan Valley

It’s heartbreaking when our deputies come in contact with minors who have been sex trafficked – these innocent children forced to do such inhumane acts.

Currently, when caught, the people who traffic these children face prison sentences that do not match the crime. But now, with Prop. 313, these monsters can meet true justice when apprehended and convicted in an Arizona court of law.

The sheriffs across Arizona fully support the simplicity of Prop. 313 – convicted of 2nd-degree felony child sex trafficking and face a lifetime in an Arizona prison cell with no opportunity for an early release. Natural life behind bars for a conviction on child sex trafficking charges means just that.

Arizona isn't just a thruway for sex trafficking to other parts of the country. We face our own problems. And it is most common to find children between 11 and 14 years old victimized – both by traffickers and rapists. In 2021 alone, the National Human Trafficking Hotline received 650 tips from Arizona that led to finding 337 victims. It's reprehensible that these vulnerable children—often from foreign shores, must undergo such horrible acts.

Arizona voters can send a clear and convincing message to the people who engage in such heinous acts: Get caught and spend the rest of your life behind barbed wire in a state prison.

No justification or defense exists for these crimes against human decency. The sheriffs hope voters support Prop. 313 to increase the prison sentence not just because Arizona is a law and order state but to deter child sex trafficking in the first place. We must do everything we can to eliminate the incentive to sell children into the sex trade. By substantially increasing the penalties for sex trafficking, Arizona's sheriffs hope we eliminate this stain on modern society.

David Rhodes, President, Yavapai County Sheriff, Arizona Sheriff Association, Phoenix

This heinous crime has become too prevalent in our community. It permeates all socio-economic classes, races, and demographics, and worst of all is the stealing of the innocents of our children. Passing Proposition 313 tells anyone choosing to ruin the lives of children will have the rest of their life choices taken from them. We need to protect our children by removing these traffickers from our community permanently. Please say YES on Prop 313.

Rene Lopez, Co-Founder, Cece's Hope Center, Chandler

I firmly support the proposed bill mandating life sentences for sex traffickers of minors. This legislation is crucial in protecting our most vulnerable population—our children—from the horrific crime of sex trafficking. The severity of this punishment underscores the gravity of exploiting minors and serves as a powerful deterrent to potential traffickers.

Life sentences for sex traffickers of minors ensure that those who commit these heinous acts are permanently removed from society, preventing them from harming other children. This approach prioritizes the safety and well-being of our youth, sending a clear message that our society will not tolerate the exploitation of minors.

Moreover, the prospect of a life sentence acts as a strong deterrent. Potential traffickers will think twice before engaging in such crimes, knowing that the consequences are severe and non-

negotiable. The law serves not only to punish but also to prevent future offenses by creating a legal environment where the risks far outweigh any perceived benefits of trafficking minors.

Several states have enacted laws allowing for life sentences for individuals found guilty of trafficking minors, reflecting the severity of the crime and their commitment to combating human trafficking:

- California: Life sentences under Penal Code Section 236.1 for trafficking minors with force, fear, fraud, or coercion.

- Florida: Life imprisonment under Statutes Section 787.06 if the victim is under 15 and the crime involves sexual battery, coercion, or force.

- Texas: Life sentences without parole under Penal Code Section 20A.02 for trafficking children for labor or sexual exploitation.

These states, among others, have recognized the profound harm of human trafficking and imposed stringent penalties to deter traffickers, provide justice for victims, and protect vulnerable populations. These efforts are part of a broader national and global movement to combat human trafficking and uphold the rights and dignity of all individuals.

Heidi Chance, Retired Phoenix Police Department, Goodyear

As a mother, I understand the fear parents face when child sex trafficking is rampant in our society. Arizona is the U.S. epicenter of child sex trafficking, and we have an obligation to do everything in our power to stop this heinous crime and hold those responsible for it to account. I wholeheartedly support Proposition 313, the Children Are Not For Sale ballot measure, and urge Arizona voters to stand united in protecting the most vulnerable members of our society.

Kari Lake, Senate Candidate, karilake.com, Phoenix

As co-chair of the Children are Not For Sale campaign in Arizona, I am proud to support the proposition ballot measure that aims to ensure justice for victims of child sex trafficking. By mandating natural life imprisonment for individuals convicted of a Class 2 felony related to child sex trafficking, we are sending a clear message that such heinous crimes will not be tolerated in our society. This measure prioritizes the safety and well-being of Arizona's children – our most vulnerable population — by holding perpetrators fully accountable for their actions. It also serves as a powerful deterrent to those who may consider engaging in such despicable acts. We believe that by enacting this measure, we are taking a significant step towards protecting our communities and preventing future instances of child sex trafficking. Join us in supporting this important initiative to ensure that those who commit these abhorrent crimes face the harshest consequences possible, sending a strong signal that Arizona's children are not for sale.

Kayleigh Kozak, Co-Chair of Children Are Not For Sale, <https://www.childrenarenotforsale.com>, Buckeye

Child sex trafficking is modern-day slavery and it is pure evil. There has been a dramatic increase in missing children in recent years fueled by our open border. Estimates are that as high as 30% of these children are being sold for sex.

Traffickers steal our children as young as four years old to sell them into a life of misery and despair. The average age of a first victim is between 12 and 14. These children lose everything to be thrown into the sex trade often sold over and over and forced to perform unspeakable acts.

These same innocent victims are then splashed across the internet where predators share and sell their images and videos repeatedly on the Dark Web.

I want these predators to know that, in Arizona, we mean business. If you do this crime -- you will do the time. Life in prison. Forever. Join me in sending a loud and clear message that, in Arizona, our children are not for sale! Please vote YES.

Sydney Hay, Scottsdale

Arizonans have no greater collective duty than to protect the most vulnerable. Crimes against children should result in penalties appropriate to the offense.

Prop 313 protects children by making it a class 2 felony to participate in child sex trafficking, punishable as a dangerous crime against children. Adult offenders would face natural life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Center for Arizona Policy urges Arizonans to vote YES on Prop 313.

Child sex trafficking is inarguably one of the worst possible human rights abuses and is a growing problem. Predators are increasingly using social media to more easily identify potential child victims to abduct for prostitution and child pornography. Along with this, the crisis of unaccompanied minors crossing our southern border has intensified the already urgent need to protect children.

Predators and smugglers need to hear the message loud and clear that if they commit heinous acts against children in Arizona, they will be punished severely.

Arizona should be a safe place for children. Prop 313 helps to make our state safer for every child.

Vote YES on Prop 313.

Cathi Herrod, Esq., President, Center for Arizona Policy, Phoenix and Greg Scott, Vice President of Policy, Center for Arizona Policy, Phoenix

A child who is a victim of sex trafficking is affected by those events for the rest of their natural life. The person who is convicted of child sex trafficking should also be affected for the rest of their natural life with imprisonment and no eligibility for release. As a parent and grandparent, I

would not want someone to be released who could harm more children. We need to hold our citizenry accountable for their actions, send a message to others and protect our children.

Vote YES on Prop 313!

John Hassett, Phoenix

I am in support of this measure to increase penalties for a person convicted of a class 2 felony for child sex trafficking to a mandatory sentence of natural life. It is important to point out that a class 2 felony means UP TO 12 years in prison. This amount of time is often pleaded down to much less time and/or reduced time for "good behavior" while incarcerated. Meanwhile, the child who has been sold MANY TIMES EACH DAY for many years is subject to a lifetime of trauma; physical, emotional and psychological. The DAMAGE done by these predators leaves a scar that only fades over time but NEVER erased and only if the survivor is fortunate to recover. Therefore, it seems fitting that the convict is "sentenced" to life in prison. Additionally, lifetime incarceration for such a predator removes 1 more child sex trafficker off the streets and saves countless of children from such evil. I implore your to please vote FOR this ballot measure. SAVE THE CHILDREN.

PATTY PORTER, First Vice Chair, LD12, Maricopa County Republican Party of Arizona, PHoenix