



Strengthening Accountability for Sex Buyers

In the last five years, state legislatures have increasingly recognized what survivors have long known: prostitution and sex trafficking are inextricably linked, and reducing sexual exploitation requires reducing buyer demand. Since 2021, six states have made solicitation a felony offense, and four additional states have increased fines on sex buyers— directing those funds to survivor support. In 2026, legislatures across the country are considering further measures to hold sex buyers accountable.

States That Have Passed Felony Accountability for Sex Buyers:

- North Carolina, Texas, Montana, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri (*sent to Governor, pending signature*)
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States That Have Passed Enhanced Penalties for Sex Buyers:

- New Hampshire (elevated fines for sex-buying with fines directed into survivor support)
 - California (elevated fines for loitering with the intent to purchase with fines directed into survivor support)
 - New Jersey (elevated fines for sex-buying and mandated buyer accountability program)
 - Louisiana (elevated fines for sex-buying and mandated buyer education program)
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States With Enhanced Penalty Bills Pending This Session:

- **States with bills making sex-buying a felony on first offense:**
 - Arizona, Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, South Carolina, Washington
- **States with bills making sex-buying a felony on second or repeat offense:**
 - Alabama, Florida
- **States with bills that enhance fines on sex buyers (some of which fund survivor support and/or include diversion programs):**
 - Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maine, New York, Rhode Island, Utah

