

# The Senate of Texas



TAN PARKER  
STATE SENATOR  
DISTRICT 12

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## **Senator Tan Parker Files Legislation to Fight Human Trafficking** *Lawmaker Continues His Work to Combat this Crime and Assist Victims*

AUSTIN, TX - State Senator Tan Parker announced today that he has filed a package of bills aimed at combating the crisis of human trafficking in Texas. These legislative initiatives will address critical policies to strengthen bail reform, crack down on illicit massage parlors, and enact tougher punishment for traffickers, while also providing increased protections for victims.

“While I am proud of the many accomplishments of our great state, the sad reality is that we are the second worst state in the nation for human trafficking. We cannot accept nor tolerate this horrific crime that is occurring within our communities”, said Parker. “This legislative package is the product of countless meetings with stakeholders who are on the frontlines every day. I will continue working to advance legislative solutions that protect vulnerable Texans, punish criminals, and provide law enforcement the tools they need to help put an end to this scourge on our society.” Parker added.

Senate Bill 1010 & Senate Joint Resolution 51 seek to deny bail for any trafficker or child sexual assault offender who commits another offense while out on bail for a prior similar offense. SB 1009 strengthens existing Texas law overseeing massage parlors, in order to prevent bad actors from tarnishing the industry and disguising human trafficking operations. SB 1011 increases the penalties for human traffickers whose victims are recruited while in jail, and also provides enhanced penalties for offenders who strangle their victims. Finally, SB1012 allows certain trafficking victims to publicly seal their records for protection and privacy.

Senator Tan Parker is in his first term in the Texas Senate, after serving in Texas House since 2007, working for the people of Senate District 12 (Parts of Dallas, Denton, and Tarrant counties and the county of Wise). Early in his service as a legislator, he earned the recognition as a champion in the fight against human trafficking, becoming one of the first Republican lawmakers to file legislation to increase awareness and enact safeguards for Texans. Some of his most notable legislation centers upon increased penalties for trafficking and other sex crimes, including for those who solicit prostitution and possess child pornography. He also created the designation of January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Texas and January 28 as Sexual Assault Survivors Day along with making certain that victims have resources available to report and escape trafficking organizations.

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For the 88th Legislative Session, Senator Parker serves as vice chairman to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs as well as Transportation, State Affairs, Local Government, Administration, and Education.

